

St George's Terrace Commemorative Plaques



1829-1989

FOREWORD

Walk along St Georges Terrace and you are stepping back through history.

In fact, it could be that you are walking in the very footsteps of those people whose names are honoured on the street plaques below.

These are people who have left their mark, in some significant way, on Western Australia. They include politicians, doctors, pioneers, teachers, sportspeople and civic leaders.

It is also interesting to contemplate how life must have been back in the days when some of these people were such prominent citizens of Western Australia.

This latest volume features distinguished West Australians whose names have been added to the commemorative paving tiles since the original publication in 1979.

So next time you step out on St Georges Terrace you will have a source of information on all those people who have been honoured.

The plaques commence on the southern side of St Georges Terrace outside The Perth Concert Hall and progress chronologically in a westerly direction and then back again on the northern side finishing at Irwin Street.

The City of Perth is proud to commemorate the contributions made by these distinguished West Australians.

The City also records its appreciation for the initiative of the WAY '79 Commerce Committee in promoting the plaques concept and generating the initial funds.

foreword

Plaque listing by date order

- 1829 Captain James Stirling - Governor
- 1830 John Septimus Roe - Surveyor General
- 1831 Charles MacFaull - Newspaperman
- 1832 Lionel Samson - Merchant
- 1833 Yagan - Aboriginal Leader
- 1834 William Henry Mackie - Advocate General
- 1835 Dr Alexander Collie - Colonial Surgeon
- 1836 A.H. & G.F. Stone - Lawyers
- 1837 Henry Willey Reveley - Architect
- 1838 John & Helen Scott - Pioneers Bunbury
- 1839 George Leake - Merchant
- 1840 Major Frederick Chidley Irwin - Commandant
- 1841 Francis Fraser Armstrong - Superintendent of Aborigines
- 1842 William & Eliza Backshall - Market Gardeners
- 1843 Georgiana Molloy - Settler & Botanist
- 1844 Peter Nicholas Broun - Colonial Secretary
- 1845 Anthony Curtis - Trader
- 1846 Mother Ursula Frayne - Teacher
- 1847 Dom Rosendo Salvado - Missionary
- 1848 A.C. & F.T. Gregory - Explorers & Surveyors
- 1849 Archdeacon J.R. Wollaston - Church Leader
- 1850 Daniel Scott - Fremantle Harbour-master
- 1851 Henry Trigg - Builder
- 1852 George Fletcher Moore - Diarist
- 1853 Francis Lochee - Banker
- 1854 Henry Yelverton - Timber Miller
- 1855 George Shenton Snr - Chemist

listings

- 1856 Anne Camfield - Mission Teacher
- 1857 Mathew Blagden Hale - Bishop
- 1858 Henry Laroche Cole - Civic Leader
- 1859 Dr John Ferguson - Vigneron
- 1860 James Drummond - Botanist
- 1861 Sir Archibald Paull Burt - Chief Justice.
- 1862 Lieut-Col E.Y.W. Henderson - Comptroller General
of Convicts
- 1863 Walter Padbury - Merchant & Pastoralist
- 1864 Emma Mary Withnell - North-West Pioneer
- 1865 A. & C.E. Dempster - Pastoralists Esperance
- 1866 Robert John Sholl - Resident Magistrate North-West
- 1867 William Beresford - Journalist
- 1868 Joseph Chester - Artisan
- 1869 Tommy Windich - Explorer
- 1870 Charles Edward Broadhurst - Pearler
- 1871 William Adkinson - Inspector of Schools
- 1872 Benjamin Mason - Timber Miller
- 1873 Richard Roach Jewell - Architect
- 1874 Frederick Palgrave Barlee - Colonial Secretary
- 1875 J. & W. Bateman - Merchants
- 1876 John Acton Wroth - Postmaster Toodyay
- 1877 John Hassell - Pastoralist
- 1878 Alfred Robert Waylen - Colonial Surgeon
- 1879 Alexander Forrest - Surveyor
- 1880 James Lilly - Ship Owner
- 1881 Maurice Coleman Davies - Timber Miller
- 1882 M. & P. Durack - Pastoralists
- 1883 Rev. David Shearer - Church Leader

listings

listings

1884	George Randell - Civic Leader
1885	C. Hall & J. Slattery - Prospectors
1886	C. & W.N. MacDonald - Pastoralists
1887	Matthew Gibney - Bishop
1888	George Towton - Horse Racing Pioneer
1889	Stephen Henry Parker - Political Leader
1890	John Forrest - Statesman
1891	George Shenton - Merchant & Legislator
1892	Michael Finnerty - Mining Warden
1893	Patrick Hannan - Prospector
1894	Margaret O'Brien - Goldfields Nurse
1895	Harry Boan - Retailer
1896	Faiz & Tagh Mahomet - Camel Drivers
1897	Amy Jane Best - Teacher
1898	William Paterson - Manager Agricultural Bank
1899	Daisy Bates - Friend of Aborigines
1900	John Waters Kirwan - Goldfields Editor
1901	Lieut F.W. Bell, V.C. - War Hero
1902	C.Y. O'Connor - Engineer
1903	Andrew Gibb Maitland - Geologist
1904	Sir Walter James - Premier
1905	Charles Harper - Newspaperman & Legislator
1906	Adam Baird - Retailer
1907	E.M. Collick - Goldfields Priest
1908	Alfred Wernam Canning - Surveyor
1909	James Mitchell - Minister for Lands
1910	W.E. Bold - Town Clerk
1911	George Lowe Sutton - Agricultural Scientist
1912	Joseph Parsons - Headmaster

- 1913 Sir J. Winthrop Hackett - Editor & Philanthropist
- 1914 Ernest William Tomlinson - Industrialist
- 1915 Lieut H.V. Throssell, V.C. - War Hero
- 1916 Senator George Pearce - Minister for Defence
- 1917 Capt. H.W. Murray, V.C. - War Hero
- 1918 Lieut-General Sir J.J. Talbot Hobbs - Soldier & Architect
- 1919 Norman Brearley - Aviation Pioneer
- 1920 Kingsley Fairbridge - Founder of Child Migration
- 1921 Edith Dircksey Cowan - M.L.A.
- 1922 Thomas Ahern - Retailer
- 1923 Bessie Rischbieth - Feminist
- 1924 Philip Collier - Premier
- 1925 James Thompson - Railway Engineer
- 1926 Phil Matson - Footballer
- 1927 W.J. Winterbottom - Automotive Pioneer
- 1928 Katherine Susannah Prichard - Author
- 1929 Roberta Jull - Medical Practitioner
- 1930 Sig Schlam - Speedway Champion
- 1931 Alf & Nellie Angel - Group Settlers
- 1932 Harold Boas - Architect & Planner
- 1933 Sister Kate Clutterbuck - Founder of Children's Homes
- 1934 Horrie Miller - Aviator
- 1935 Henry Frewen Le Fanu - Anglican Primate
- 1936 Eileen Joyce - Pianist
- 1937 Alfred Jacobs - Country Doctor
- 1938 Decima Norman - Champion Athlete
- 1939 David Isaac Freedman - Rabbi
- 1940 F/O R.L. Glyde, D.F.C. - Battle of Britain Ace
- 1941 Wing Commander H.I. Edwards, V.C. - War Hero

listings

listings

- 1942 Private A.S. Gurney, V.C. - War Hero
- 1943 Dorothy Tangney - Senator
- 1944 Lieut-Cdr. Leon U. Goldsworthy, G.C. - War Hero
- 1945 John Curtin - Prime Minister
- 1946 Agnes Walsh - Matron K.E.M.H.
- 1947 Walter Murdoch - Essayist
- 1948 John Winter - Olympic High Jump Champion
- 1949 Florence Cardell Oliver - Cabinet Minister
- 1950 F.E. Chamberlain - Trade Union Leader
- 1951 Russell Dumas - Public Servant
- 1952 Professor Harold Bailey - Scholar
- 1953 Professor Fred Alexander - Cultural Leader
- 1954 Dorothy Fleming - Children's Broadcaster
- 1955 Eric Smart - Wheat Farmer
- 1956 Shirley Strickland - Olympic Track Champion
- 1957 F.J. Clark - Surgeon
- 1958 Herb Elliott - World Champion Runner
- 1959 Rolf Harris - Entertainer
- 1960 H.C. Coombs - Banker
- 1961 Lang Hancock - Mining Entrepreneur
- 1962 Bob Marshall - World Billiards Champion
- 1963 Sir Lance Brisbane - Industrialist
- 1964 Professor Eric Underwood - Agricultural Scientist
- 1965 Sir Charles Court - Premier and Minister for Industrial Development
- 1966 Sir David Brand - Premier
- 1967 Sir Frederick Samson - Mayor of Fremantle
- 1968 Albert Barunga - Aboriginal Tribal Leader
- 1969 Sir Paul Hasluck - Governor General

- 1970 R.J. Hawke - Prime Minister & Trade Union Leader
1971 Graham Farmer - Footballer
1972 Dennis Lillee - Cricketer
1973 Florence Hummerston - Community Leader
1974 John T. Tonkin - Premier
1975 K.J. Townsing - Public Servant
1976 Michael Kailis - Fishing Industry Entrepreneur
1977 Olive Anstey - Hospital Matron
1978 Sir George Bedbrook - Orthopaedic Surgeon
1979 Sir Wallace Kyle - Governor
1980 Rica Erickson A.M. - Botany, Art and History
1981 Sir Francis Burt A.C. K.C.M.C. Q.C. - Law
1982 Dr Robin Warren and Dr Barry Marshall - Medicine
1983 William Harold Clough A.O. O.B.E. - Engineering & Commerce
1984 Dr Kevin Cullen A.M. & Di Cullen A.M. - Medicine & Viticulture
1985 Jack Davis A.M. B.E.M. - Literature
1986 Sir Ronald Wilson A.C. K.B.E. C.M.G. Q.C. - Law
1987 Elizabeth Jolley A.O. - Literature
1988 Jon Sanders A.O. O.B.E. - Yachting
1989 John Roberts A.O. - Construction



listings

Plaque listing by alphabetical order

A

Adkinson, William - Inspector of Schools - 1871
Ahern, Thomas - Retailer - 1922
Alexander, Professor Fred - Cultural Leader - 1953
Angel, Alf & Nellie - Group Settlers - 1931
Anstey, Olive - Hospital Matron - 1977
Armstrong, Francis Fraser - Superintendent of Aborigines - 1841

B

Backshall, William & Eliza - Market Gardeners - 1842
Bailey, Professor Harold - Scholar - 1952
Baird, Adam - Retailer - 1906
Barlee, Frederick Palgrave - Colonial Secretary - 1874
Barunga, Albert - Aboriginal Tribal Leader - 1968
Bateman, J. & W. - Merchants - 1875
Bates, Daisy - Friend of Aborigines - 1899
Bedbrook, Sir George - Orthopaedic Surgeon - 1978
Bell V.C, Lieut F.W. - War Hero - 1901
Beresford, William - Journalist - 1867
Best, Amy Jane - Teacher - 1897
Boan, Harry - Retailer - 1895
Boas, Harold - Architect & Planner - 1932
Bold, W.E. - Town Clerk - 1910
Brand, Sir David - Premier - 1966
Brearley, Norman - Aviation Pioneer - 1919
Brisbane, Sir Lance - Industrialist - 1963
Broadhurst, Charles Edward - Pearler - 1870
Broun, Peter Nicholas - Colonial Secretary - 1844

Burt, Sir Archibald Paull - Chief Justice - 1861

Burt A.C. K.C.M.C. Q.C., The Honourable Sir Francis - Law - 1981

C

Camfield, Anne - Mission Teacher - 1856

Canning, Alfred Wernam - Surveyor - 1908

Chamberlain, F.E. - Trade Union Leader - 1950

Chester, Joseph - Artisan - 1868

Clark, F.J. - Surgeon - 1957

Clough A.O. O.B.E., William Harold - Engineer - 1983

Clutterbuck, Sister Kate - Founder of Children's Homes - 1933

Cole, Henry Laroche - Civic Leader - 1858

Collick, E.M. - Goldfields Priest - 1907

Collie, Dr Alexander - Colonial Surgeon - 1835

Collier, Philip - Premier - 1924

Coombs, H.C. - Banker - 1960

Court, Sir Charles - Premier & Minister for Industrial Development - 1965

Cowan, Edith Dircksey - M.L.A. - 1921

Cullen A.M., Dr Kevin & Di - Medicine & Viticulture - 1984

Curtin, John - Prime Minister - 1945

Curtis, Anthony - Trader - 1845

D

Davies, Maurice Coleman - Timber Miller - 1881

Davis A.M. B.E.M., Jack - Literature - 1985

Dempster, A. & C.E. - Esperance - Pastoralists - 1865

Drummond, James - Botanist - 1860

Dumas, Russell - Public Servant - 1951

Durack, M. & P. - Pastoralists - 1882

listings

E

Edwards, V.C, Wing Commander H.I. - War Hero - 1941

Elliott, Herb - World Champion Runner - 1958

Erickson A.M., Rica - Botany, Art and History - 1980

F

Fairbridge, Kingsley - Founder of Child Migration - 1920

Farmer, Graham - Footballer - 1971

Ferguson, Dr John - Vigneron - 1859

Finnerty, Michael - Mining Warden - 1892

Fleming, Dorothy - Children's Broadcaster - 1954

Forrest, Alexander - Surveyor - 1879

Forrest, John - Statesman - 1890

Frayne, Mother Ursula - Teacher - 1846

Freedman, David Isaac - Rabbi - 1939

G

Gibney, Matthew - Bishop - 1887

Glyde D.F.C, F/O.R.L. - Battle of Britain Ace - 1940

Goldsworthy G.C., Lieut - Cdr. Leon U. - War Hero - 1944

Gregory, A.C. & F.T. - Explorers & Surveyors - 1848

Gurney, Private A.S. V.C. - War Hero - 1942

H

Hackett, Sir J. Winthrop - Editor & Philanthropist - 1913

Hale, Mathew Blagden - Bishop - 1857

Hall, C. & J. Slattery - Prospectors - 1885

Hancock, Lang - Mining Entrepreneur - 1961

Hannan, Patrick - Prospector - 1893

Harper, Charles - Newspaperman & Legislator - 1905

Harris, Rolf - Entertainer - 1959
Hasluck, Sir Paul - Governor General - 1969
Hassell, John - Pastoralist - 1877
Hawke, R.J. - Prime Minister & Trade Union Leader - 1970
Henderson, Lieut-Col E.Y.W. - Comptroller General of
Convicts - 1862
Hobbs, Lieut-General Sir J.J. Talbot - Soldier & Architect - 1918
Hummerston, Florence - Community Leader - 1973

I

Irwin, Major Frederick Chidley - Commandant - 1840

J

Jacobs, Alfred - Country Doctor - 1937
James, Sir Walter - Premier - 1904
Jewell, Richard Roach - Architect - 1873
Jolley A.O., Ms Elizabeth - Literature - 1987
Joyce, Eileen - Pianist - 1936
Jull, Roberta - Medical Practitioner - 1929

K

Kailis, Michael - Fishing Industry Entrepreneur - 1976
Kirwan, John Waters - Goldfields Editor - 1900
Kyle, Sir Wallace - Governor - 1979

L

Leake, George - Merchant - 1839
Le Fanu, Henry Frewen - Anglican Primate - 1935
Lillee, Dennis - Cricketer - 1972
Lilly, James - Ship Owner - 1880
Lochee, Francis - Banker - 1853

listings

M

MacDonald, C. & W. N. - Pastoralists - 1886
MacFaull, Charles - Newspaperman - 1831
Mackie, William Henry - Advocate General - 1834
Mahomet, Faiz & Tagh - Camel Drivers - 1896
Maitland, Andrew Gibb - Geologist - 1903
Marshall, Barry Dr - Medicine - 1982
Marshall, Bob - World Billiards - Champion - 1962
Mason, Benjamin - Timber Miller - 1872
Matson, Phil - Footballer - 1926
Miller, Horrie - Aviator - 1934
Mitchell, James - Minister for Lands - 1909
Molloy, Georgiana - Settler & Botanist - 1843
Moore, George Fletcher - Diarist - 1852
Murdoch, Walter - Essayist - 1947
Murray V.C, Capt H.W. - War Hero - 1917

N

Norman, Decima - Champion Athlete - 1938

O

O'Brien, Margaret - Goldfields Nurse - 1894
O'Connor, C.Y. - Engineer - 1902
Oliver, Florence Cardell - Cabinet Minister - 1949

P

Padbury, Walter - Merchant & Pastoralist - 1863
Parker, Stephen Henry - Political Leader - 1889
Parsons, Joseph - Headmaster - 1912
Paterson, William - Manager - Agricultural Bank - 1898

Pearce, Senator George - Minister for Defence - 1916

Prichard, Katherine Susannah - Author - 1928

R

Randell, George - Civic Leader - 1884

Reveley, Henry Willey - Architect - 1837

Rischbieth, Bessie - Feminist - 1923

Roberts A.O., Mr John - Construction - 1989

Roe, John Septimus - Surveyor General - 1830

S

Salvado, Dom Rosendo - Missionary - 1847

Samson, Sir Frederick - Mayor of Fremantle - 1967

Samson, Lionel - Merchant - 1832

Sanders A.O. O.B.E., Mr Jon - Yachting - 1988

Schlam, Sig - Speedway Champion - 1930

Scott, Daniel - Fremantle Harbour-master - 1850

Scott, John & Helen - Pioneers Bunbury - 1838

Shearer, Rev. David - Church Leader - 1883

Shenton, George Snr - Chemist - 1855

Shenton, George - Merchant & Legislator - 1891

Sholl, Robert John - Resident Magistrate North-West - 1866

Slattery, J. & Hall, C. - Prospectors - 1885

Smart, Eric - Wheat Farmer - 1955

Stirling, Captain James - Governor - 1829

Stone A.H. & G.F. - Lawyers - 1836

Strickland, Shirley - Olympic Track Champion - 1956

Sutton, George Lowe - Agricultural Scientist - 1911

listings

T

Tangney, Dorothy - Senator - 1943
Thompson, James - Railway Engineer - 1925
Throssell V.C, Lieut H.V. - War Hero - 1915
Tomlinson, Ernest William - Industrialist - 1914
Tonkin, John T. - Premier - 1974
Townsing, K.J. - Public Servant - 1975
Towton, George - Horse Racing Pioneer - 1888
Trigg, Henry - Builder - 1851

U

Underwood, Professor Eric - Agricultural Scientist - 1964

W

Walsh, Agnes - Matron K.E.M.H. - 1946
Warren, Dr Robin - Medicine - 1982
Waylen, Alfred Robert - Colonial Surgeon - 1878
Wilson A.C. K.B.E. C.M.G. Q.C., The Honourable Sir Ronald - Law - 1986
Windich, Tommy - Explorer - 1869
Winter, John - Olympic High Jump Champion - 1948
Winterbottom, W.J. - Automotive Pioneer - 1927
Withnell, Emma Mary - North West Pioneer - 1864
Wollaston, Archdeacon J.R. - Church Leader - 1849
Wroth, John Acton - Postmaster - Toodyay - 1876

Y

Yagan, - Aboriginal Leader - 1833
Yelverton, Henry - Timber Miller - 1854



CITY of PERTH

1829

CAPTAIN JAMES STIRLING

Governor

James Stirling was not only Western Australia's first Governor but its effective founder. For it was his enthusiastic report on the Swan River area in 1827 and his subsequent pressure for its colonisation which forced the hand of the British Government. Born in Scotland in 1791, Stirling was only 38 years of age when he arrived on the *Parmelia* in June 1829 to launch the new colony. In 1827 in a mild autumn the Swan River had seemed "to hold out every attraction that a country in a state of nature can possess". The first settlers, over-confident and ill-prepared, found the reality, in a harsh winter, quite different. They were critical of Stirling for misleading them and for assigning himself the best land grants. Nevertheless he gave the colony spirited leadership and a sense of itself as a "British" community. His young wife Ellen was universally loved for her resourceful and supportive efforts. After his departure in January 1839, Stirling resumed his naval career, serving as Commander-in-Chief in China and the West Indies in the 1850s and reaching the rank of full admiral.

1829's



1830

JOHN SEPTIMUS ROE

Surveyor General

Born in 1797, Roe entered the navy in 1813. From 1817 to 1825 he was master's mate in the N.S.W. surveying service which included extensive surveys of the Western coast. He was invited by Stirling to become the new colony's first Surveyor-General and the navy granted him two years leave. Following his arrival on the *Parmelia* he was responsible for laying out the town sites of Perth and Fremantle. In 1830 and 1831 he struggled almost single-handedly to survey and allocate land fast enough to keep pace with the demands of the boat-loads of new settlers. Then he laid out town sites and lines for roads, charted harbours and anchorages. None of this work had been done before the settlers arrived. He coped, too, with the processing of all applications for land and as well leading sixteen overland expeditions between 1830 and 1849. As Surveyor-General he was a member of the colony's executive and legislative councils, as a private citizen he was a leader of the Mechanics Institute and a leading land-owner - "Sandalford", the Roe estate, is still family property. He and his wife gave 13 children to the colony. He retired in 1870 and died in 1878. There is, appropriately, a memorial to him in Kings Park since he is credited with setting aside Mount Eliza as public land.

1831

CHARLES MacFAULL

Newspaperman

On his arrival in Western Australia in 1830, MacFaull took up 113 acres of land near Fremantle and proposed to start a vineyard. However in 1831 he found his true vocation, bringing out a short-lived handwritten newspaper called the Western Australian Chronicle and Perth Gazette. There was a number of such manuscript newspapers from early 1830, containing shipping news, Governor's proclamations, reports of court cases, snippets of English and European news, and letters to the editor reporting on farming successes, problems with the Aborigines or exercising a citizen's rights to criticise "The Government". The first printing press to arrive in the colony was bought by MacFaull and his partner W K Shenton and used to bring out a variety of newspapers culminating in the launching in January 1833 of the Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal (the lineal ancestor of The West Australian). It was edited, printed and published by Charles MacFaull, the father of journalism in Western Australia, until his death in 1846. He was also the Government Printer from 1836 and Postmaster 1832-40. His wife succeeded him as Government Printer to 1849 and edited the Gazette for a year after his death.

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1832

LIONEL SAMSON

Merchant

Born in 1799, a member of a long-established and wealthy Jewish family, Lionel Samson was educated at Oxford and afterwards became a member of the London Stock Exchange. Like his friend George Leake he became interested in migration to the colonies and chose Western Australia, where he arrived in August 1829 with large amounts of general merchandise. Within a year he had bought land at the first sale of town allotments at Fremantle and established a business as a wine and spirit merchant and general importer and auctioneer. The business has been carried on with remarkable continuity to the present day. During the early years of the colony it was the merchants who prospered. As one of the most respected members of the business community, Samson developed diverse business interests, including whaling. He was a nominee member of the Legislative Council and as a member of the Fremantle Town Trust, a pioneer of local government.

1833

YAGAN

Aboriginal Leader

Yagan, son of Midgegooroo, belonged to a Nyoongah tribe which, until white settlement, occupied the land south of the Swan and Canning Rivers. As the settlers established themselves on tribal land, relations between settlers and Aborigines began to deteriorate after the first few trouble-free years. Yagan took part in several attacks on farm-houses on the Canning and became caught up in a chain of reprisals which included the killing of his brother and father. Both Yagan and Midgegooroo were outlawed and Yagan was incarcerated on Carnac Island in 1832 in an attempt to convert him to Christianity. He escaped and remained at liberty until July 1833 when he was shot dead by a white youth he had befriended. The youth was himself speared by Aborigines. A tall and unusually powerful man, Yagan had a compelling personality. He was both admired and feared by the white community. In more recent times he has become an Aboriginal symbol of integrity and pride. The cycle of conflict, resistance and defeat, in which he was caught, was repeated as white settlement extended.

1833



1834

WILLIAM HENRY MACKIE

Advocate General

Born in India in 1799 of Irish parentage, Mackie was educated at Cambridge and trained for the law in London. However, he came to Western Australia in October 1829 as a private settler and took up land in the Swan and Avon valleys with his cousin, Captain F C Irwin. In December 1829 Stirling made him a JP and Chairman of the first Courts of Petty and Quarter Sessions, set up to deal with an upsurge of drunkenness and petty crime. In 1831 he became Advocate-General and a foundation member of the Executive and Legislative Councils, then in 1834 Commissioner of the Civil Courts. His court sat first in the little "Rush" Church which served also as school room until 1837 when a Court House was built, serving in its turn as church and school. He heard a plethora of civil and criminal cases - libels and debts, disputes over boundaries, master-servant conflicts, assaults and drunkenness - the products of the strain and insecurity of the colony's first decades. From 1834 until his retirement in 1857, Mackie was in effect if not in name, Western Australia's first and sole judge in both the criminal and civil jurisdictions. He was widely respected for his common sense readiness to adapt British law to local conditions, for his impartiality and his conscientiousness.

1835

DR ALEXANDER COLLIE

Colonial Surgeon

Born in Scotland in 1793, Collie studied medicine at Edinburgh and London. He was also a botanist and mineralogist. When he was appointed surgeon on board the Sulphur which escorted the *Parmelia* to the Swan River, he had had several years' experience as a naval surgeon and had sailed to South America, Africa and Asia. During the voyage he supervised the birth of Ellen Stirling's second son and on arrival he took up land and set up in general practice, at first from a tent on Garden Island. Later in 1829, he and Lieutenant Preston explored the South West of the colony discovering the rivers named after them. He was then commissioned by Stirling to investigate the sickness amongst Thomas Peel's settlers. He reported poor housing and malnutrition resulting in ophthalmia, scurvy and dysentery that had caused at least 28 deaths. In 1831-32, Collie was the first Government Resident at Albany. The population was only 40 or so, mainly garrison, and only two or three ships a year called, so he was glad to be appointed Colonial Surgeon at Perth. He discharged his duties faithfully until his death at a relatively young age in 1835 (probably from tuberculosis). He died in Albany while on his way home to England.

1835's



1836

A. H. & G. F. STONE

Lawyers

Alfred Hawes Stone was one of the first lawyers to arrive in Western Australia and in 1831 he was followed by his brother, George Frederick, who although lacking formal training joined him as a partner and became a sound lawyer. The firm of solicitors established by the Stone brothers has endured as one of the most respected in Western Australia. G F Stone also served the colony in a variety of official capacities which included the Registrarship of Births, Marriages and Deaths (he conducted the first census in 1848), chairmanship of the Board of Works, Crown Solicitor and ultimately Advocate General from 1859 to 1870. The brothers were much involved in community affairs and were involved in the foundation of the Western Australian Bank and Perth Building Society. A pioneer in the field of amateur photography, A.H. Stone left a magnificent collection of photographs of Perth in the mid-nineteenth century. They capture Perth when its new convict-built public buildings were giving it solidity but when its cottages were still tenuously deposited on the sand.

1837

HENRY WILLEY REVELEY

Architect

Reveley was the son of an architect and grew up in a circle of intimates which included philosophers Bentham and Godwin. He himself was a close friend of the poet Shelley. Educated in Italy as engineer and architect, he was an eleventh-hour addition to the roll-call of Western Australia's founding fathers, being recruited by Stirling as Civil Engineer to the colony when the *Parmelia* called at Capetown, where Reveley had been engaged on similar duties. From 1829 to 1838 he was responsible for the design and construction of all public works and buildings including jetties, roads and bridges, barracks, offices and the first Government House. Imported timber was attacked by heat and termites and local materials had yet to be tested; skilled labour was scarce and many of the early buildings were hardly more than sheds. Of his permanent buildings, constructed in a simplified Georgian style in keeping with the Colony's meagre resources, only the Round House in Fremantle and the Old Court House in Perth survive. His scheme for a Fremantle breakwater was beyond the colonial means and his flour mill built of local materials failed for lack of water. Reveley did not get on well with the colonial establishment and left the Swan River in 1838.

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1838

JOHN & HELEN SCOTT

Pioneers Bunbury

John and Helen Scott were Scottish farmers before their emigration to Western Australia in 1831. They first took up 100 acres of land in Guildford where Perth Airport now stands. In 1838 they moved to Eelup near Bunbury to farm land belonging to Governor Stirling. They were the first settlers in the Bunbury district. Due to their isolation they had to be highly self-sufficient, constructing their own house and farm buildings and producing their own food. As other settlers arrived through the Australind scheme they offered aid and hospitality, and supplied them with dairy produce. A doctor's daughter with some medical experience in Scotland behind her, Helen Scott was much in demand as midwife, nurse and amateur doctor. John and Helen Scott died in 1880 and 1883 respectively. Their descendants played an important part in the development of the dairying area around Bunbury.

1839

GEORGE LEAKE

Merchant

Lured by the prospect of land grants of 40 acres for each \$3 invested in equipment and supplies and of 200 acres for each labourer accompanying the settler, many aspiring emigrant land-owners sank their capital in possessions and servants leaving themselves with nothing for the lean years of the colony's establishment. George Leake, son of an English merchant, came in 1829 with property, servants - and substantial capital - which allowed him to take up grants totalling 25,000 acres and to set himself up as a merchant. By the middle of the colony's first decade, two-thirds of the settlers were reputed to be sustained by mortgages held by Leake. His prominence in the economic life of the colony was matched by his involvement in community affairs. He was an early member and director of the Agricultural Society, an initiator and director of the Bank of Western Australia, a magistrate, sometime Chairman of the Perth Town Trust and of the General Roads Trust, a member of the Central Board of Works and from 1839 until his death in 1849 one of the unofficial members of the Legislative Council.

1839's

1840

***MAJOR FREDERICK CHIDLEY
IRWIN***

Commandant

A professional soldier, with service in the Napoleonic Wars and in Canada and Ceylon behind him, Irwin came to the Swan River in 1829 in command of the detachment of the 63rd Regiment that was to provide military protection for the colony. He remained as Commandant until his retirement in 1852, apart from a break of a few years in the 1830s when he helped to form the Western Australian Association in London. As Commandant his strictly military duties were concerned chiefly with the conflicts between settlers and Aborigines in which he saw his task as providing protection for settlers. He was automatically an official member of the Legislative Council, Lieutenant Governor in the Governor's absence, and a leading member of colonial society. He served as Lieutenant Governor twice, from 1832-33 during the Yagan disturbances and again in 1847-48 when he established the General Board of Education to counter Roman Catholic educational successes. He also introduced a tax on sandalwood exports. An austere, stern man, and a devout Anglican he sought always to promote the strict maintenance of law and order and of religious observance.

1841

FRANCIS FRASER ARMSTRONG

Superintendent of Aborigines

Francis Armstrong arrived in the colony in 1829 as a youth of sixteen. He loved bush life and joined the handful of settlers who were genuinely interested in Aboriginal language and bush-lore and concerned with the plight of natives reduced to virtual vagrancy by expanding settlement. No-one, Armstrong included, doubted the superiority of Christian civilisation or of settled farm and town life over the nomadic, “savage” life of the Aborigines. In 1834, he was appointed Native Interpreter to the law court, and superintendent of a native institution at the foot of Mount Eliza. Here he gave the Aborigines a refuge and tried to assimilate them into town life as river fishermen. In 1840, the Methodists began a school for native children, run by Armstrong and his wife, both devout Methodists. They taught the children to read and write, to say simple prayers and prepared them for domestic service. Later in the 1840s, Armstrong served as teacher in the Native Prison on Rottnest. A stained glass window in Wesley Church commemorated his work.

1841's

1842

WILLIAM & ELIZA BACKSHALL

Market Gardeners

The Backshalls arrived in the colony in 1842 and took up land in the swampy northern part of the Perth townsite - land that is now freeway - and began as market gardeners. They were soon renowned for their high quality produce and for their enterprise in introducing new varieties of fruit and vegetables. From 1869 William was, for a long time, a city councillor representing the market gardeners of the west ward. The swamp areas were drained by the 1870s and other market gardens had joined the Backshalls, but few matched their success.

1843

GEORGIANA MOLLOY

Settler & Botanist

Within months of her marriage in 1829 to Captain John Molloy, a Waterloo veteran, Georgiana Molloy was aboard ship for the Swan River Colony. The Molloy's and a handful of aspiring landowner families and their servants pioneered settlement at Augusta and, later, on the Vasse. For a woman accustomed to genteel rural life with ample servants and her friends around her, it was a hard and lonely life. The servants left, the forest was unyielding and the natives unpredictable. Her first child died within a few days of its birth in a tent on the Augusta beach and another child drowned a few years later. Nevertheless she came to love the "wilderness" and ironically it gave her an absorbing interest to sustain her. In December 1836 she was invited by Captain Mangles, an amateur botanist in England, to send to him seeds and specimens of West Australian flora. In return, he sent her English seeds for her own much-loved garden. She devoted the whole of her spare time to the collection of seeds and flowers and to the study of the botanical works Mangles sent her. The seed he received, scrupulously described and packed, was distributed to English horticulturalists and they paid tribute on her death in 1843 to her gifts to English gardens.

1843's



1844

PETER NICHOLAS BROUN

Colonial Secretary

Born in 1779, the second son of a baronet, Broun was a gentleman clerk when influential patrons secured him the position of Colonial Secretary at Swan River, with a salary of \$800 a year. He and his family arrived on the *Parmelia* and he conducted the colony's first business from a tent on Garden Island. His work involved daily consultation with the Governor, the conduct of all correspondence with the Secretary of the State for Colonies and with often irate and desperate colonists. He also kept accounts and supervised "the civil establishment". His capital and possessions had entitled him to a large grant of land at Upper Swan but his official duties occupied most of his time and the estate was sold in 1834 to redeem promissory notes which he had issued as the colony's informal banker. He was a foundation director of the Bank of Western Australia and a member of the Perth Town Trust, but although he died in office in 1846 he never saw himself as a permanent settler. As founder of the West Australian public service, he set an honourable example of what his peers acknowledged as "industry and sound judgement".

1845

ANTHONY CURTIS

Trader

Anthony Curtis, an adventurer from boyhood, ran away from home to join the navy. At the end of his service in 1830 he came to Western Australia on the Medina. Until his death in 1853 he was involved in most of the maritime enterprises of the young colony. He began as a Fremantle hotel and storekeeper, then he invested in 1834 in a 36-ton schooner, Fanny, which plied between Fremantle and Albany at a time when the sea route was the surest and fastest one to the coastal settlements. In the 1840s he engaged in whaling and fishing with his own whaling station on Rottnest (1845) and fishing station on the Abrolhos Islands from which he exported cured fish to Mauritius. His boats regularly voyaged to the East Indies and Mauritius and he was the first trader to take West Australian produce to Ceylon in 1848.

1845's

1846

MOTHER URSULA FRAYNE

Teacher

Ursula Frayne entered the Institute of Mercy, Dublin, in 1834 as a young woman of eighteen, the daughter of a prosperous Dublin businessman. In 1845 she and a small band of Sisters of Mercy responded to Bishop Brady's plea for teachers for Western Australia and they came expecting to find a well-established Catholic community with many prospective pupils. They found a church scarcely more than a shed, no school buildings or pupils and no money. Within ten years, Mother Ursula, a practical good-humoured woman of unshakeable religious faith, had raised the money to build a substantial convent and school in which she and the sisters offered free education open to all girls, and a fee-paying school "for young ladies". All branches of the sisters' schools were a great success. In 1857, Mother Ursula went to Victoria where her energies achieved similar results while the Sisters of Mercy in Western Australia extended their work to country schools. The original convent and school, in Victoria Square, are still in use.

1847

DOM ROSENDO SALVADO

Missionary

Dom Rosendo Salvado and his companion Dom Serra were Spanish Benedictine members of the band of European missionaries that Bishop Brady brought to W.A. in 1846 to evangelise the Aborigines. He had entered a Benedictine monastery in Spain in 1829 at the age of fifteen and then abandoned a future as a distinguished church musician in Italy for a mission farm on the Victoria Plains, north of Perth. Determined and resourceful, Salvado and his companions won the confidence of the Aborigines and began clearing and seeding, encouraging them to share in the work. He financed the first buildings of the monastery and farm in 1847 with the proceeds of a piano recital he gave in Perth. In its heyday, New Norcia was a thriving self-sufficient village, around the monastery, of which Salvado was Lord Abbot. Respectful of traditional customs he tried to adapt them to meet European ways and he tried to mediate Aboriginal needs and rights to the white community. He died in 1900 by which time New Norcia had lost some of its original purpose and become a refuge for Aborigines and half-castes for the whole of the South-West.

1847's

1848

A.C. & F.T. GREGORY

Explorers & Surveyors

Brothers Augustus and Francis Gregory came to the Swan River in 1829 as boys of ten and eight when their father accepted a land grant there in lieu of an army pension. As young men they both became surveyors under J S Roe, working together surveying townsites and pastoral leases. Augustus in particular won a reputation for superb bushcraft and thorough organisation. By the end of the 1840s colonists were looking to northern exploration to open up new pastoral land and hopefully to find minerals worth exploiting to boost the colony's flagging economy. In 1848 they sponsored an expedition led by A.C. Gregory which found both good grazing land and deposits of lead, and started the settlement of the Champion Bay district, now Geraldton. Francis explored the Gascoyne River and Nicol Bay regions of the North-West in 1858 and 1861 and tried to float a settlement there with the idea of importing Asian labour. The scheme was unsuccessful but his reports still inspired subsequent northern settlement by pastoralists and pearlers. Both A.C. and F.T. Gregory left to pursue important careers in Queensland, but they were remembered as heroes in Western Australia.

1849

ARCHDEACON J.R. WOLLASTON

Church Leader

John Wollaston emigrated to Western Australia at the age of fifty as unofficial Anglican chaplain to the WA Land Company's Australind pioneers, in the hope that the new colony would offer expanded prospects for his family. He and his sons built the little church at Picton and he spent 1842-48 ministering to his sparse and often apathetic flock and trying to kindle the zeal of his fellow clergy. The settlement scheme failed - "everything here in a state of dilapidation and decay" as he wrote in his diary - and Governor Fitzgerald transferred him to Albany. In 1849, his bishop in Adelaide, recognising him as 'a worthy, laborious, energetic, excellent missionary' appointed him Archdeacon. Wollaston travelled hundreds of miles on horseback, advising the local clergy, visiting schools and prisons, chastising lax church wardens, and conducting services wherever he could gather people together. He died in 1856, a year before the consecration, for which he had longed, of the first bishop of Western Australia.

1849's

1850

DANIEL SCOTT

Fremantle Harbour-master

Born in 1800, Daniel Scott was by the age of twenty-one captain of a small cargo ship running between the Gold Coast and the West Indies. He came to Western Australia in 1829 on the *Calista* and was soon appointed harbour-master and pilot at Fremantle. He retired in 1851. The harbour was scarcely more than a jetty with boatmen plying between it and ships at anchor, a hazardous business. Scott combined his official duties with his own lightering service and he also had boats in the coastal trade, for which the first sea-going vessel of local timber was built in 1836. It was his warehouse that became the first prison for the newly arrived convicts in 1850. Although he had acquired some farm property he was emphatically a Fremantle man and became the first Chairman of the Fremantle Town Trust in 1848, holding the position several times before his death in 1865.

1851

HENRY TRIGG

Builder

A Gloucestershire carpenter and boatbuilder, Henry Trigg came with the first settlers in 1829. There were few tradesmen in the colony so Trigg found his skills much in demand and he prospered. He built many of the early government buildings and private houses, using Swan River Mahogany (jarrah) and in 1838 was appointed Superintendent of Public Works.

As such, he supervised the construction of the first causeway and the attempts to blast through the rock bar across the river at Fremantle. An earnestly religious man, he was a devoted lay leader of the Congregationalists all his life, and designed and built their first chapel in 1846. He frequently rode long distances, even as an old man, to preach to convict road parties, and often helped ticket-of-leave men find work. He died in 1882, at the age of 91.

1851's



1852

GEORGE FLETCHER MOORE

Diarist

Moore, an Irish lawyer born in 1798, came to the Swan River in 1830, hoping for a legal position with the government. In between his arrival and his appointment in 1832 as Commissioner of the Civil Court, he took up land at Upper Swan and began sheep farming. In due course he acquired extensive farm and town property and built up a large flock. He was appointed Advocate General in 1834 and also took part in the early explorations of the York and Northam districts. He shared the social expectations, hard work and disappointments of his fellow settlers and studied Aboriginal language and customs - all with unflagging energy and enthusiasm which he communicated to his diary. It was written during the 1830s, serialised by *The West Australian* and republished in 1884 (and 1979) to educate the second and third generations in the hardships and fortitude of their forebears. By that time, Moore had long been an exile in London and he died there in 1886.

1853

FRANCIS LOCHEE

Banker

A lawyer from an English banking family, Lochee came to Perth in 1838. His first enterprise was a weekly newspaper, the *Inquirer* - a Western Australian journal of politics and literature in partnership with a York farmer. From 1843-46 he was its proprietor, editor and publisher. He married the daughter of a prominent merchant and committed himself enthusiastically to colonial life, singing in the cathedral choir and serving on several community committees, including the General Board of Education 1847-56. In 1846 he was elected cashier, or manager, of the Western Australian Bank which had been established in 1841, with directors and shareholders from local merchants, landowners and officials. The bank prospered during Lochee's long period as manager (1846-89) and played an important part in the economic affairs of Western Australia through the pastoral expansion of the 1880s, the gold rushes of the nineties and the agricultural expansion of the early twentieth century up to the bank's absorption by the Bank of New South Wales in 1927.

1853's

1854

HENRY YELVERTON

Timber Miller

Yelverton, son of a London jeweller, came to Western Australia in 1845 on an American whaler. He entered the infant timber-milling industry, first near Perth then in the Busselton district. He built a steam mill and his own roads, horse-tramway and jetty for his Quindalup Mill in 1858, employing ex-convicts. The jarrah and tuart shingles, paving blocks, sleepers and ships timbers were then exported to the eastern colonies, India and Ceylon. Yelverton went bankrupt twice in the 1860s but recovered each time to regain his place as the leading timber merchant. One of his additional interests, which also had the support of the local community, was the smuggling of tobacco, which was used by farmers as a sheep disease remedy. He died in 1880 of injuries sustained in a log fall. The mill remained in the family until 1898 and became part of Millars Karri & Jarrah Co in 1902.

1855

GEORGE SHENTON SNR

Chemist

George Shenton was Perth's first chemist in 1838, having followed his cousin William to Western Australia in 1833. His pharmaceutical business encompassed the dispensing of family remedies and sheep and cattle medicines as well as physician's prescriptions. It soon expanded into a general merchandising and agency business with large warehouses in Perth and Fremantle and a fine St Georges Terrace house. Shenton was a leader in the development of jarrah and sandalwood export to England in the 1840s and in the opening up of the Geraldton district where he had mining, wheat farming and trading interests. He was also a director and sometime chairman of the Western Australian Bank. His civic career included chairmanship of the Town Trust 1853-58 when he led a "no taxation without representation" movement against the Governor. He was also a very active lay member of the Methodist Church. He died in 1867 in a shipwreck, leaving a family which was linked by marriage to most of the leading WA families and which enlarged and developed his business and political interests.

1855's

1856

ANNE CAMFIELD

Mission Teacher

As Anne Breeze, she came to the Swan River as a member of the Rev. Mitchell's household and taught in the native school of which he had charge. In 1840 she married Henry Camfield and she followed him to Albany in 1848, on his appointment as Government Resident there. She began taking needy Aboriginal and half caste children into her home and this was formalised into a school in 1852, under Archdeacon Wollaston's oversight. She was convinced that the assimilation of Aborigines into white society was the answer to the problems of black-white relations and she had some notable successes during the eighteen years of her work in Albany. On the whole, though, the future was a bleak one for her charges once they had left her family care.

1857

MATHEW BLAGDEN HALE

Bishop

Mathew Blagden Hale was consecrated the first Anglican Bishop of Perth in 1857. Born in 1811 to an historic English family, he came to Western Australia after several years as an English country curate and as a missionary to the Aborigines in South Australia. He found the Church of England in the new diocese demoralised and disorganised and left it in 1875 with increased numbers of clergy and churches, with regular synods and revived parish organisation. He travelled his diocese from Geraldton to Albany on horseback, consecrating new churches and conducting confirmations. He absorbed himself in the prevailing community questions such as the treatment of convicts and Aborigines and the development of education. One of his first acts was to open a church school for the sons of the well-to-do in 1858. It was a short-lived but influential experiment, educating many of the colony's subsequent leaders. Its premises, "The Cloisters" still stands in St Georges Terrace. After eighteen years of community leadership in Perth, he was elected to the See of Brisbane in 1875.

1857's



1858

HENRY LAROCHE COLE

Civic Leader

A young Henry Laroche Cole came to the colony in 1829 and established himself in the 1830s and 40s, as a butcher, merchant, road and building contractor and publican. By the time he became Chairman of the Perth Town Trust in 1849 he was known as “King” Cole. The principal business of the Trust was the construction and maintenance of roads, footpaths and drains in the town. Wagons bogged in the sand of the main streets and horse-riders took to the clay footpaths; the irregular rates were notoriously difficult to collect, and after 1850, the Trust had heated conflicts with the Governor over the use of convict labour on town public works. Disputes over the independence of municipal government were resolved in the late 1850s. Perth was proclaimed a City in 1856 and in 1858 the Town Trust was reconstituted as Perth City Council with Henry Cole as its first Chairman, still struggling to macadamise Perth’s streets.

1859

DR JOHN FERGUSON

Vigneron

John Ferguson, a Scottish doctor, joined the Australind settlers in 1842 with hopes of a future as a landed gentleman, but he was soon drawn back into practising medicine. In 1847 he was appointed Colonial Surgeon, retiring in 1872. He still aspired to be a land-owner and in 1859 bought the Swan Estate of Houghton and Yule where a few experimental grapevines had been planted. The Vineyard Society, to which many prominent settlers belonged, had been trying to establish grapevines since the early 1840s. Ferguson's first wine-making experiments were primitive - the progress of fermentation was tested with a lighted match - and yielded just 25 gallons of wine. However under the management of Ferguson's son Charles, Houghtons grew into a large scale producer of fine wine. It was, incidentally, in Houghton's cellars that bushranger Moondyne Joe was captured, sleeping off the effects of their wine.

1859's

1860

JAMES DRUMMOND

Botanist

James Drummond, a Scot, was curator of the Botanical Gardens in Cork until retrenchments left him without a job and with few prospects in Britain for his six children. So he accepted Stirling's invitation to sail to the Swan River, hoping for a government position and a land grant. The position as superintendent of public gardens did not eventuate but he and his sons took up land in the Helena and later the Avon Valley. While his family managed the farm, Drummond ranged far and wide identifying poison plants that were killing stock and collecting seed and specimens for sale to English horticulturalists. He was a familiar figure, walking with his packhorses laden and even his hat filled with specimens. By the end of his life in 1863, he had collected and identified some 2000 species of Western Australian plants and he and his family had taken part in pioneering settlements of the Victoria Plains and Murchison districts. Many plant names record his work.

1861

SIR ARCHIBALD PAULL BURT

Chief Justice

Born in 1810 a West Indian planter's son, Burt took his legal education at the Middle Temple London and established a successful West Indian career as barrister and plantation owner. Burt was offered the position of Civil Commissioner and Chairman of Quarter Sessions in Western Australia in 1860. Shortly after his arrival in 1861 he was made Chief Justice to the newly created Supreme Court. Local lawyers had no formal legal training and their court procedure was sometimes unorthodox. Burt insisted on rigorous British legal practice and defended the impartiality of his court during several heated controversies. At the beginning of his career, the WA population of some 15,000 included 4000 men who were or had been convicts. Predictably, Burt's work was mainly in the Criminal Court where colonial law was more severe than the English; he frequently recommended mercy where the law prescribed capital punishment, especially in offences by Aborigines caught between tribal and British law. A prominent Anglican layman and president of the Weld Club, he was a community leader in the Victorian style. He died in office in 1879. A hundred years later, a descendant, Sir Francis Burt, was Chief Justice.

1861's



1862

***LIEUT-COLONEL E.Y.W.
HENDERSON***

Comptroller General of Convicts

Edmund Henderson, an officer in the Royal Engineers, was appointed the first Comptroller General of convicts in Western Australia in 1849. Colonists had petitioned for convicts in 1847, after transportation had ceased to the other colonies, to provide both labour and imperial funds for the colony's ailing economy. They anticipated the convicts' arrival with mixed horror and hopefulness. When Henderson arrived in 1850 with the first 75 convicts and other ships close behind, there was no prison to receive them. Henderson's first task was to supervise the construction of a prison in Fremantle. By the standards of the time, Henderson was a humane and liberal man. His "moral force" system of reformation allowed prisoners to earn good behaviour points towards their ticket-of-leave. He was frequently criticised as too lenient but he was proud of the convicts' absorption into the community. He eventually became Chief Commissioner of the London Police after he retired from colonial service in 1862, by which time 6500 convicts had been transported to Western Australia.

1863

WALTER PADBURY

Merchant & Pastoralist

Shortly after the arrival of the Padburys, father and son, at the Swan River in 1830, Walter Padbury's father died, leaving the ten-year-old boy to fend for himself. He found work around Perth for several years and then worked shepherding, fencing, shearing and droving. By 1844 he had saved enough money to bring his family to WA and set himself up as a Perth butcher. With the profits from his meat contracts to the convict establishment, he expanded his interests into pastoral properties, flour-milling and shipping. Inspired by the Gregorys' explorations, he took up a North-West pastoral lease in 1863 and took the first shipload of sheep to the De Grey River region. His own venture failed when the Emma sank with all hands but his enterprise was soon emulated. During the 1860s and 70s he and his partner Loton bought several ships to enter the India, Singapore and London trade, and opened general stores in Perth and Guildford. He was at various times a Perth City Councillor, member of the Legislative Council, first Mayor of Guildford (1887), president of the Agricultural Society and a generous philanthropist.

1863's



1864

EMMA MARY WITHNELL

North-West Pioneer

In 1864 Emma and John Withnell and their two children left Perth by ship amongst the first settlers for the North-West. The expedition was shipwrecked near Nichol Bay, stock and equipment were lost and the party nearly died of thirst before claiming land near what became the town of Roebourne. Emma Withnell optimistically called it Mount Welcome. She survived the loneliness of the first years as the only white woman, to become nurse, midwife and friend to the black and white women of the North-West. At the same time, she bore nine more children of her own. Many settlers were defeated by the harsh climate and country but the Withnells weathered shipwreck, drought, cyclone, fire and flood to establish prosperous pastoral stations. When Emma Withnell died in 1928 she had earned her title of “Mother of the North-West”.

1865

A. & C.E. DEMPSTER

Esperance Pastoralists

The Dempster brothers were first generation West Australians, their parents having been 1830 settlers who eventually became Avon Valley horse breeders. By the time Charles and Andrew reached manhood they had to look beyond the settled areas of the South-West for land of their own. New land regulations gave pastoralists rent-free leases for four years if they took up land in the North-West or South-East so the Dempsters chartered a ship in 1863 to explore the land along the south coast. The brothers then traced a stock route from the south to Perth and drove their stock back along it to their Esperance lease in 1864. Charles returned to manage the family's Northam property in 1866 but Andrew persevered as an Esperance pioneer, with his ticket of leave labourers. There was only a handful of isolated settlers until the gold-rushes when Esperance Bay shared in the boom as port for the goldfields.

1865's



1866

ROBERT JOHN SHOLL

Resident Magistrate - North-West

Robert Sholl had been a medical student in England before he followed his brother to Western Australia in 1840. Before his appointment as a government resident, he tried his hand as a teacher, magistrate's clerk, customs officer, and newspaper editor and proprietor. In 1865, Governor Hampton appointed him Government Resident to the North-West settlement begun by men from the eastern colonies. When he arrived, he found the settlers sick and destitute. Many of them had abandoned the project; the remainder Sholl moved to the Withnells' lease where Roebourne town was proclaimed in 1866. In an isolated pioneer community Sholl as resident was the embodiment of the government and law and order. He was magistrate, collector of customs, district registrar, medical officer and lay reader. For years he conducted the government's business from a shack built of the remains of his cyclone demolished house. In 1881 he returned south to be the Swan resident magistrate, and died in 1886.

1867

WILLIAM BERESFORD

Journalist

Beresford was a former Anglican Dean transported to Western Australia in 1858 under a life sentence for forgery. He was granted a conditional pardon in 1862 and with two fellow convicts as proprietor and co-editor he launched into journalism with the Fremantle Herald in 1867. The Inquirer and the Perth Gazette were regarded as Establishment papers but the Herald claimed to be run “on independent principles” in the great traditions of the British press. In a lively journalism new to the colony, it espoused progressive causes like convict reform and responsible government and often took the part of the working man in community controversy. Beresford’s regular column, “Chips by a Sandalwood Cutter”, alone would have secured its success. Using a semi-literate bush-worker as mouthpiece, Beresford managed a witty debunking of the pretensions of colonial officials and society leaders, “the Exclusives of the Great Metropolis”. The Herald flourished until 1886 when it was absorbed by the Inquirer, and Beresford died in obscurity.

1867's



1868

JOSEPH CHESTER

Artisan

An Englishman, Joseph Chester was a cabinet maker and upholsterer in Perth in the 1850s, 60s and 70s. He had a workshop next to Ben Mason's store in Hay Street and advertised himself as able to make or re-stuff sofas to any design, to re-spring the seats in carriages, to hang wall-paper, re-silk pianos and to make venetian blinds "at no greater charge than usually paid for inferior workmanship". As well as private commissions he worked on the furnishings of Jewell's public buildings. He was one of the leading radical members of the Mechanics Institute which had been set up in 1851 as a meeting place for free artisans under the patronage of community leaders like John Septimus Roe. They hoped it would "diffuse a love of order, sobriety, industry and good conduct" amongst the artisan class but Chester was a disciple of Tom Paine and saw government as a device of the rich to keep the poor in their places. He tried in debates over two decades to stir the Institute members to challenge the established order and he clashed often with Roe who was for a long time the Institute's president. However, as he feared, the Mechanics Institute declined in the 1870s into a gentlemen's reading room.

1869

TOMMY WINDICH

Explorer

Tommy Windich was a member of an Aboriginal tribe which had been broken up by epidemic. He grew up near the white settlement at Bunbury where he was befriended by the Forrest family. Skilled in the bushcraft of his own people and in the horsemanship of the settlers, Windich, like many of his people, worked with surveyors and settlers as a tracker and then as a native constable before he accompanied John and Alexander Forrest on several expeditions. They explored to the north-east in 1869, round the Bight to Adelaide in 1870, to the Hampton Plains in 1871, and in 1874 from Champion Bay across country and along the telegraph line to Adelaide. His skill in searching out water and hunting was vital to the success of the white men's explorations, though official recognition and reward were meagre. The Forrests paid frequent tribute to his skill and loyalty.

1869's



1870

***CHARLES EDWARD
BROADHURST***

Pearler

Charles Broadhurst, an Englishman become Victorian squatter, was attracted to the North-West by the Denison Plains Co. scheme to pioneer the pastoral industry there, in turn inspired by F T Gregory's reports of good grazing land. In 1865, as superintendent of stock and stations, he sailed with his family and the first settlers and their stock, mainly sheep, from Fremantle for the North. The Company failed and many settlers with it, but Broadhurst hung on to his pastoral leases and diversified his interests. The first really organised pearler in Nichol Bay, he bought a schooner in 1870 and used Aboriginal prisoners as divers; later he employed Malays. He shipped the first cargo of Shark Bay pearl shell to Europe in the early '70s. Always looking for new trading ventures, he dabbled in coconut growing and tortoise-shell gathering, started a fish-cannery at Mandurah and established a lucrative guano 'quarry' on the Abrolhos Islands. Small wonder that when he died in 1905 The West Australian described him as "one of the most indefatigable and persevering exploiters of the infant industries of WA in his day".

1871

WILLIAM ADKINSON

Inspector of Schools

In 1861 Adkinson, a graduate of St Mark's Training College, Chelsea, became headmaster of Perth Boys School. At that time, colonial schools run by the General Board of Education were regarded as catering for 'the lower orders' and many were housed in dingy rooms with ex-convict teachers and truant pupils. A dedicated and severe teacher and administrator, Adkinson was appointed part-time Inspector of Schools in 1868 and for the first time assessed the actual educational achievements of colonial schools. In the face of appalling academic standards and widespread absenteeism he recommended a payment-by-results system which he introduced after he became full-time Inspector of Schools in 1871. Teachers' salaries were to be based on pupil attendances and exam successes. Travelling hundreds of miles on horseback, he examined annually every government and assisted school in the colony, single-handed until 1883 then with one assistant. Payment by results kept teachers poor in the small country schools where District Boards did not enforce compulsory attendance, but it secured a basic standard of literacy in state schools. Adkinson retired in 1890.

1871's

1872

BENJAMIN MASON

Timber Miller

Son of a colonial soldier of the 1830s, Ben Mason became a carpenter. By 1860 he had considerable Perth property and was a member of the Council and a director of Perth Building Society. In 1864 he took up a 640 acre lease in what is now Kalamunda and what was then still virgin jarrah forest, where he and his partner set up a timber mill. With over a hundred men working for him, he was one of the colony's most substantial employers. Many of the men had their families with them and the first village in the district grew around the mill with stables, hall, smithy and cottages. The logs were hauled by bullocks to the mill, sawn over saw pits then hauled by horses down the hill to Mason's Landing on the Canning River, and then by barge to Fremantle. In time, the sawpits were replaced by a steam-powered circular saw and in 1872 a tramway was opened to take the timber to the river. Loaded wagons with a brake van ran freely down the hill to the landing and horses towed the empty wagons back. During the 1870s, timber was second only to wool as a WA export and Mason's Mill and Landing flourished together until the late 1880s when the railways replaced the river as preferred transport mode.

1873

RICHARD ROACH JEWELL

Architect

Richard Jewell was a Devon architect before he migrated to WA in 1852 in search of a mild climate for his sick wife. The first qualified architect in the colony since Reveley, he was Superintendent of Public Works from 1853 to 1884. He had a tiny staff and restricted funds and he had therefore to oversee even the minor details of work on country projects as well as those in Perth and Fremantle. Jewell designed and supervised the construction of most of Perth's public buildings and the Pensioner Barracks of which only the arch remains. For some of them, limestone was quarried in Fremantle with convict labour and brought by barge to Perth, but most were built of fine local bricks. Jewell's simple vigorous designs combined with the skill of colonial craftsmen to give Perth public buildings that suited its sense of status as capital of a progressive colony.

1873's



1874

FREDERICK PALGRAVE BARLEE

Colonial Secretary

Frederick Barlee was only twenty-eight when he accompanied Governor Kennedy in 1855 to his new appointment in Western Australia. They came from Sierra Leone where Kennedy had been governor and Barlee his private secretary. For both of them the move was part of the chain of promotion in the colonial service. Barlee was colonial secretary in Western Australia from 1855 to 1875, the longest serving incumbent, at a time when the colony was making the transition from survival to self-sufficiency. As Colonial Secretary, he was not only chief administrator in charge of the growing public service but also executor of Colonial Office policy, the governor's right hand man, member of the government, and chairman of the Board of Education. Never a tactful man, he was often at odds with successive governors, the Imperial Government and leading conservative colonists. He lost Bishop Hale's friendship, for example, when he had to introduce Governor Weld's aid program to denominational (in effect Roman Catholic) schools. He became quasi-premier from 1870 when representative government was introduced and the Governor could no longer sit in the Legislative Council. Barlee involved himself fully in colonial life from the first - he invested in pastoral and mining ventures, was first president of the Working Men's Association and the Weld Club, and a member of Hale's first synods. In fact he had ambitions to be W.A.'s first premier but the Colonial Office thought otherwise and promoted him first to British Honduras then Trinidad where he died in 1884.

1875

J. & W. BATEMAN

Merchants

John and Walter Bateman were sons of John Bateman and heirs to his Fremantle business. He had come to WA in 1830 and set himself up as both merchant and postmaster in Fremantle. When he died in 1855, Walter succeeded to the postmaster's job and the brothers together turned their father's enterprise into J & W Bateman & Co in 1857. Like other merchants, they explored trading prospects with South East Asia, sending cargoes of timber, sandalwood and horses, and returning with sugar and other tropical produce. Until steamers finally took over in the late 1880s, J & W Bateman's sailing ships were the sole Perth link for the pastoralists on the new sheep and cattle stations of the North-West and Kimberleys who relied on them for stores and equipment. The business continued in the family until well into the twentieth century, as ships chandlers, wholesale grocers, ironmongers, insurance brokers and wine and spirit merchants. They could furnish the northern pastoralist with everything from a windmill to groceries. John and Walter were both zealous promoters of Fremantle as a commercial and shipping centre.

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1871



1876

JOHN ACTON WROTH

Postmaster - Toodyay

John Acton Wroth was one of the 9500 convicts sent to WA between 1850 and 1868. There were ex-convicts and ticket of leave men in virtually every area of Western Australian life. Below the real elite, a few became moderately wealthy property owners. Some became tradesmen, teachers and small farmers, many labourers and lonely outback shepherds. A good many lived on the fringes of towns as semi-vagrants often before the magistrate for being drunk and disorderly. Some of them had suffered floggings and repeated terms in dark solitary confinement and then in irons on work parties. Wroth was one of Convict Comptroller Edmund Henderson's success stories. Transported in 1851 under a ten-year sentence for forgery, he had an unblemished ticket of leave record as a conscientious clerk at the York and Toodyay convict depots. In 1854 he was granted his conditional pardon. He married and was appointed local postmaster and clerk to the resident magistrate. In 1864 the post office moved to Newcastle (now Toodyay) and he remained a postmaster until his death from typhoid in 1876. In the meantime he also served as teacher to the Drummond children, clerk to the secretary of the Agricultural Society and clerk to the first Toodyay Road Board. His sons took over these posts when he died, having "won the goodwill and well wishes of all classes" in the words of his obituary.

1877

JOHN HASSELL

Pastoralist

John Hassell, a shipbroker and merchant's son, settled in Western Australia in 1840 after an adventurous career as a master mariner including a period in the Chilean navy and then as a seatrader between the east coast colonies of Australia. He bought land along the Kalgan River, north of King George Sound, in 1838 and shipped his stock and equipment from Sydney. The land had been explored, surveyed and granted in the early 1830s but had not been developed. Hassell found it "a most excellent tract of country capable of growing immense quantities of grain, hay and potatoes . . the climate is a most delightful one". He called the property Kendenup and developed it, and his Jerramungup property, as sheep stations. With managers working the property, Hassell was a merchant in Albany while it was a tiny isolated town. After early struggles, Kendenup was running 10,000 sheep and employing many ticket-of-leave men by 1856 when Bishop Hale stayed there on a pastoral tour. Under the management of his sons John Frederick and Albert from 1856, this property became by the 1870s one of the largest and best sheep stations in Western Australia.

's
1877



1878

ALFRED ROBERT WAYLEN

Colonial Surgeon

Alfred Waylen was born in the colony in 1837 and sent 'Home' to be educated - the first West Australian to gain a medical degree, training at St Andrews Edinburgh in the atmosphere of the Chadwickian public health reforms. On his return, he was resident medical officer for the Swan District for 13 years and then succeeded John Ferguson as Colonial Surgeon, from 1872-1895. This meant that he was in charge of the colonial hospital, medical officer of the Perth Prison and superintendent of vaccination, but he made his main work the improvement of Perth's water supply and sanitation. Its citizens drew their water from the backyard wells which were often polluted by the nearby household cesspit. It was the poorer residents in low-lying districts who suffered most from the resulting dysentery and typhoid. Waylen was one of the prime movers in a public meeting in 1878 which tried to push the City Council into accepting responsibility for the installation of proper earth closets. Nothing had been done by 1883 when the new Governor, Broome, appointed him chairman of a commission to inquire into water supply and sanitation, and president of the Central Board of Health. It was 1890 before work began on the Victoria Reservoir to give Perth piped water. Waylen retired in 1895, spending his retirement developing his long-standing interests in vineyards.

1879

ALEXANDER FORREST

Surveyor

William and Margaret Forrest, Alexander's parents, were members of Dr John Ferguson's group of Australind settlers of 1842. William set up as mechanic and miller near Bunbury and Alexander, one of nine sons, was born there in 1849. He was educated at Bishop Hale's School. Surveying was one of the few careers open to a young ambitious colonial and both Alexander and older brother John entered the Survey Department, Alexander as a contract surveyor and John as a permanent employee. In this period (the 1860s to 90s) surveyors were undertaking the accurate mapping of settled regions but there was still real exploration to be done. In 1870 and 1874 Alexander was second in command to John Forrest's expeditions that crossed the empty centre to Adelaide and in 1871 and 1875 he led his own team in exploring the land beyond Kalgoorlie and south to Esperance, and in surveying the Roebourne area to open up more pastoral land. The work for which he is remembered however was the 1879 exploration of the remote north of Western Australia, to be named the Kimberleys after the Secretary of State for Colonies. His party traversed the King Leopold Ranges and followed the Ord River. It took nine months instead of the expected six and they almost perished, tormented by mosquitoes and sun-stroke and reduced to killing their horses for rations. His report spoke of likely gold-bearing country around Hall's Creek and of 20 million acres of country suitable for pastoral purposes. The Kimberleys quickly became the mecca of cattlemen and prospectors. He was Member for the West Kimberleys in the new Parliament after responsible government in 1890 and Mayor of Perth 1893-5 and 1898-1900.

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1879



1880

JAMES LILLY

Ship Owner

Born in Tasmania, James Lilly was an enterprising Victorian shipping agent in the 1870s when he won a contract with the Western Australian Government to provide a regular shipping service between Geraldton and Albany. In 1877, his ship the Rob Roy, the first steamship in the WA coastal trade, was making monthly voyages and connecting with the P & O mail steamers at Albany. From 1879 Lilly's steamship, the Otway, sailed every fortnight for South Australia and Victoria. The sea was the only route to the eastern colonies and there had been no regular ships or mail service linking west and east before this. After selling his shipping interests to the Adelaide Steamship Co in 1882, he became their local manager, in combination with other shipping and Fremantle business interests. In particular he was co-founder of the Fremantle Gas & Coke Co in 1895, with an opening clientele of 20 consumers and 17 street lights. A fiery tempered man, likely to berate his wharf-workers in the language of a seasoned seaman, he was nevertheless well respected and was known as "the father of Western Australian Shipping".

1881

MAURICE COLEMAN DAVIES

Timber Miller

Maurice Davies' family had originally emigrated from London to Tasmania in 1840. Davies came to Perth in 1875 looking for Western Australia's hard woods for his Adelaide railway and construction supply business. He kept his South Australian business connections but stayed on in WA to pioneer the exploitation of the karri forests. In 1882, after involvement in the cutting of jarrah, he was granted a generous concession over karri forest in the Hamelin Bay area. It gave him the right "to cut and remove the whole of the timber" for the 52-year duration of the lease, for \$300 per year. He built port facilities with a jetty 550 metres long, wooden railed tramways across the concession to transport the timber, and several large mills. His workers and their families lived at Karridale, a town he built and ruled like a feudal lord. Housing was free and the town boasted schools, library, gardens, race-course, minister and doctor, even a brass band. Employees did not receive a weekly wage, but were issued with Davies' own currency with which to shop at the company stores. He sent his sons overseas to promote karri, and as early as 1890 his mills supplied over a third of WA's timber exports. In 1902, the M C Davies Karri and Jarrah Co Ltd's extravagant exploitation of the forests was being critically examined.

1881's



1882

M. & P. DURACK

Pastoralists

The Irish-born Durack family were cattle-people in the Coopers Creek area of south-west Queensland in the 1870s. It was land vulnerable to drought and even though they were well-established, even wealthy, they were immediately attracted to the Kimberleys when news of Forrest's report of open pasture and permanent water reached Queensland. Brothers Michael and Patrick and partner Solomon Emmanuel organised an exploratory expedition which Michael, a skilled bushman, led in 1882. The party met fever, rugged ravines and hostile Aborigines but Michael finally cabled home "Country fine beyond expectations" and Patrick began organising the overland trek of Coopers Creek cattle to the Kimberleys. The drovers set off in mid-1883, in the charge of Durack men, with over 7000 cattle and took two years to reach the Ord River, having lost half the stock to disease and drought and with several men dead. Michael Durack and his partners established Lissadell Station and Patrick and his family Argyle and Ivanhoe stations. For the first generation, the Kimberleys were far from fulfilling the Duracks' hopes. Disease and cattle tick in the stock, uncertain markets, inhospitable and lonely country and hostility between white and black made it a hard and often bitter life. The Duracks were the first pastoralists in the area; their family later contributed leaders to the political, professional and artistic life of WA.

1883

REV. DAVID SHEARER

Church Leader

Western Australians were, by the mid nineteenth century, predominantly Anglican and Roman Catholic. Although the Methodists and Congregationalists had early established churches, it was not until 1879 that the Presbyterian Church was formally established, with David Shearer as its first minister. He and his family came to WA from Scotland on the Charlotte Padbury (one of Walter Padbury's ships). His first services were conducted in St George's Hall amongst the set for an amateur production of "HMS Pinafore" and in the Working Men's Institute. However, by 1881 the foundation stone of St Andrew's was laid and it was finished in 1882. An earnest and energetic man, Shearer spent days preparing his sermons, seeking to foster a God-fearing community. A teacher and university graduate as well as minister, his community work involved much varied educational activity. He was one of the leading educational reformers and champions of state education. He wrote many articles for the Press criticising payment by results, urging the introduction of progressive new subjects like book-keeping, history and carpentry, and opposing state aid to church schools. He died in 1891 from illness aggravated by overwork. The 529 Presbyterians of the 1870 census then numbered 1996 and there were congregations at Perth, Fremantle, Albany, Jarrahdale and Geraldton.

1883



1884

GEORGE RANDELL

Civic Leader

George Randell, a young man of thirty and newly married, came to Western Australia in 1850 and set himself up as a carpenter and mechanic. Then in 1863 with partner Solomon Cook, a WA steam pioneer, he started the first regular steam ferry service on the Swan River between Fremantle and Guildford. There were still no real roads and the service grew within a few years to seven steamers and lighters. Now a prosperous self-made man, he embarked on a career as civic leader. He was a member of the Perth Town Trust from 1870 and Chairman of Perth City Council 1884-85. He was elected to the Legislative Council for Perth from 1875-77 and a nominated member from 1880. He was the member for Perth in the first Legislative Assembly, 1890-92, despite the fact that he had opposed responsible government while a member of the Legislative Council. He became Colonial Secretary and Minister for Education. In this latter capacity he gave strong political support to the new Inspector-General, Cyril Jackson, and they worked together to modernise WA's state schools. Randell had for decades been the colony's most energetic supporter of a strong, secular state system of education and led the movement to end aid to denominational schools in 1895. He was a member of the Central Board of Education and a governor of Perth High School. All his life, he was a leading member of the Congregational Church in Perth. Added to this were chairmanship of the Australian Mutual Provident Society and a directorship of the Western Australian Bank. He died in 1915.

1885

C. HALL & J. SLATTERY

Prospectors

Alexander Forrest's reports of likely gold-bearing country in the Kimberleys soon drew men who had followed gold through New Zealand, Victoria and Queensland. They came on pearling boats to Darwin, Derby or Cossack and those that did not give up at the first sight of the Kimberley ranges followed the cattlemen's tracks with their horses and wagons. The first payable gold was found in 1885 by Charles Hall, a Roebourne well-sinker and fencer, and his comrade John Slattery. On their first trip they found 10 ounces of gold and on their second 81, including a 19oz nugget. They claimed the Government reward and faded away. The area of their find - Halls Creek - became the site of the first West Australian gold rush. It was a short-lived rush; 2500 men on the field in 1886, barely 150 the next year. The gold was elusive and heat, thirst, scurvy, malaria, dysentery and hostile Aborigines drove out all but the most tenacious. However, the rush had brought to Western Australia seasoned prospectors and bushmen who would search for gold elsewhere in the colony.

1885



1886

C. & W. N. MACDONALD

Pastoralists

The Duracks were not the only family to undertake the epic overland crossing. The MacDonald brothers from the Goulburn district of Victoria were already on the trail with 500 cattle by the end of March 1883, a distance to the Kimberleys of about 5,600 kilometres. The drought of '83 killed all their original stock, and most of the drovers returned home. Charles and William MacDonald took work to help build up a new mob and pushed on into the Northern Territory, the cattle stricken with “pleuro” and themselves with fever. Charles was too ill to continue and was taken by a party of prospectors to Darwin. William pressed on for another 11 months, overtaken by the Durack herd. By June 1886 he had reached the junction of the Victoria and Margaret Rivers, where he and Charles developed Fossil Downs station. It became the largest privately owned cattle station in Australia, with over 400,000 hectares.

1887

MATTHEW GIBNEY

Bishop

Matthew Gibney came to Western Australia as a young Irish priest in 1883. He soon became Bishop Griver's Vicar General and spokesman, since Griver was a Spaniard with little English and most of the colony's Roman Catholics were Irish working people. Before his consecration as Bishop in 1887, on Griver's death, Gibney had set up a Catholic newspaper, *The Record*; had been the first Catholic priest in the North-West; and had become something of a folk hero through his involvement in the Glenrowan siege when he administered the last sacrament to Ned Kelly. He was regarded as "the people's priest". After becoming Bishop his work focused on two issues, the defence of the northern Aborigines and the development of Catholic education. In both causes he was outspoken and determined. On pastoral visits to the North-West he saw the brutal treatment of Aborigines by pearlers and pastoralists - the press-ganged Aboriginal divers abandoned with damaged lungs and scurvy, and station hands flogged for absconding, chain-ganged or shot for spearing cattle. More than anyone else he was responsible for making this a public issue in the south. When he lost the fight to maintain state aid to denominational schools in 1895 he recruited nuns and brothers to open new Catholic schools. Amongst them were the Christian Brothers, the Loreto and Presentation Sisters and the Sisters of St John of God. Many of their schools were in country towns. Worn out by the financial problems of his ambitious schemes, Bishop Gibney retired in 1910.

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1887



1888

GEORGE TOWTON

Horse Racing Pioneer

Horse racing had been part of colonial gatherings since the early days but the Western Australian Turf Club was not established till 1852. It was an elite organisation with training and racing an amateur affair in which gentlemen still sometimes rode their own horse at W.A.T.C. meetings. Its professionalisation in the 1890s is marked by the horse-racing career of George Towton. George Towton was born in Perth in 1853. His father, a Parkhurst apprentice, arrived in 1842, and his mother was a daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Dent who were licensees of one of the colony's earliest taverns (the "Happy Immigrant" 1830). George Towton was likewise a hotelier, licensee of the "No Place Inn" and the Freemasons' Hotel, and a livery stable owner. But his main interests were horse-breeding and racing. He owned, trained, and often rode an extraordinary sequence of winners from the late '80s to mid '90s, beginning with the second Perth Cup in 1888 on 'Telephone'. Between 1888 and 1897 his horses won six Perth Cups, displacing the stables of the gentry. In one memorable meeting (1892) horses owned and trained by George Towton won six of the twelve races on the card and were placed in four. Towton himself, at 66kg, rode Wandering Willie to win the Perth Cup and a purse of 400 sovereigns by four lengths, and on the same horse the next day won the Queen's Plate and the Farewell Handicap. It is not surprising that race-goers called him 'King George'.

1889

STEPHEN HENRY PARKER

Political Leader

Like the Forrests, S H Parker was colonial-born and educated at Bishop's School, though his father was a land-owner member of the Legislative Council rather than a small farmer. He entered the legal profession in 1868 and a decade later entered local politics with his election to the Legislative Council and to the chairmanship of the Perth City Council. He did everything with energy and flair, from riding his own horse at Turf Club meetings, to challenging the Chief Justice, and "Colonial Secretary baiting" in the Legislative Council. From 1878 he was the acknowledged leader of the movement for responsible government, with a growing reputation as "the people's Harry". Every year he raised the issue in Council, while the Reform League lobbied outside. Conservatives like George Shenton thought the colony was not ready but by 1889 elections produced a Council in favour of the change and Parker was a member of the delegation which went to London to steer the Constitution Bill through the British Parliament. Despite being the colony's political leader for two decades he did not become Premier and served as Colonial Secretary in Forrest's cabinet 1892-94. He resigned when it became clear that Forrest expected to make all the decisions himself. A flamboyant lawyer in his youth, he was appointed Chief Justice in 1906 and knighted in 1908.

1889's



1890

JOHN FORREST

Statesman

Born in 1847, John Forrest, like his brother Alexander, was educated to hard work and ambition on his parents' farm and at Bishop Hale's School. While still a young man in the Survey Department he conducted several detailed surveying expeditions into the interior of Western Australia, developing the style of methodical work and decisive leadership that he transferred to politics. In 1878, as acting Surveyor-General, he was the first WA born member of the Executive Council and in the same year he married into one of the colony's landed families. From 1883-1890 he was Surveyor-General and Commissioner of Crown Lands. His reputation for straightforward administrative competence and his enthusiasm for a vigorous public works program gained him the necessary support to make him the first Premier and Treasurer under responsible government in 1890. Forrest's government, dominated by his personality, paternalistic style and sheer physical bulk, made for a stable transition from representative to responsible government. The government undertook large-scale public works projects, with loans floated in London, fostered small farm settlement and introduced well-timed progressive reforms like votes for women. After Federation in 1901, Forrest entered the Federal Parliament as M.H.R. for Swan and was a member of cabinet in successive non-Labor governments with several terms as Minister for External Affairs - the high point of his career as West Australian, Australian and Imperialist. He died in 1918 on board ship for England after being created Lord Forrest, Baron of Bunbury, the first Australian-born peer.

1891

GEORGE SHENTON

Merchant & Legislator

George Shenton, born in Perth 1842, was the eldest son of George Shenton senior, chemist and merchant. After an English education he entered the family business, managing their Geraldton store and farm. In 1867 he took over the Perth store and the shipping interests. Unlike some local merchants he developed his business with changing circumstances, becoming the Fremantle agent for a London steam shipping line and investing early and successfully in the Eastern Goldfields. Shenton exported wool, sandalwood and timber and imported an assortment of goods including Nobel's explosives. In 1903 Shenton amalgamated with Elder Smith of South Australia, and there were soon flourishing Elder Shenton stock agencies and stores in many country towns. Shenton was by then a very wealthy man with a fine house on the Crawley foreshore. But he had also given much of his time to civic offices as befitted his status as a member of a leading colonial family, and in which he took great pride. Perth's first Mayor in 1880 and a member of the old Legislative Council, he was Colonial Secretary in Forrest's first cabinet and President of the Legislative Council from 1892 to 1906. Knighted in 1893, he served on an impressive number of public committees - president of the Chamber of Commerce, governor of Peth High School, member of the Kings Park Board and of the Board of the Public Library, chairman Perth Hospital Board as well as being a leading layman at Wesley Church, Perth.

1891's



1892

MICHAEL FINNERTY

Mining Warden

Michael Finnerty's career as mining warden and resident magistrate spanned the Kimberley, Yilgarn and Coolgardie rushes. It was his job to register claims, arbitrate disputes, maintain order, and oversee water supply and public health. When the Kimberley field petered out, prospectors worked over other likely areas in the Pilbara, Murchison and Yilgarn. Finnerty was transferred to Southern Cross in 1889 with a reputation for good humoured fairness earned in the Kimberleys. It was Warden Finnerty with whom Bayley and Ford registered their finds and applied for their reward claim in 1892, beginning the greatest gold rush in WA history. They had picked up more than 100 ounces in a few hours and found a reef that became Bayley's Reward Mine. Prospectors arrived in droves and within a few weeks Fly Flat was pegged and the air full of dust from the dry blowers. Coolgardie, the boom town over which Finnerty presided, was remarkably law-abiding; his Warden's Court was its most impressive building.

1893

PATRICK HANNAN

Prospector

Paddy Hannan had emigrated to Australia from Ireland in the early 1860s and followed the gold-rushes all over Australasia, from Ballarat to New Zealand then New South Wales and South Australia. A taciturn, solitary man he came to WA to prospect in 1889, now a seasoned bushman skilled in dry land prospecting. He joined the Coolgardie rush in 1892 and found enough gold to get together the gear for prospecting further east where there were rumours of rich finds. There were many other prospectors searching the land to the east but it was Hannan and his companions who found the rich area that became Kalgoorlie and the Golden Mile. In June 1893, Hannan lodged his claim and the whole of Coolgardie joined the eastern search. The alluvial gold of Kalgoorlie was soon exhausted but there was plentiful hard-rock gold which created a long-term deep-mining industry, drawing many men and their families from the rest of Australia, which was suffering the worst depression of its history. Paddy Hannan did not make a fortune, living on a pension from the WA Government, but he became a folk-hero, symbol of the tenacious individualist.

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1893

1894

MARGARET O'BRIEN

Goldfields Nurse

Sister O'Brien, at the height of the gold-rush, travelled by coach to Southern Cross then by camel to Coolgardie with her hospital equipment to set up a private hospital on the Goldfields. Her hospital consisted of wood-framed tents, and her patients, dirt and sand encrusted, were brought to her mainly stricken with typhoid, which needed long painstaking nursing. The shortage of water made proper nursing care impossible. When the water ran out, nurses used soda water, even whisky, to sponge their patients. At Warden Finnerty's request Sister O'Brien supervised the government hospital as well as her own patients. Nurses like Sister O'Brien worked night and day in primitive conditions. Many men - and some nurses - died. By 1899 the Coolgardie cemetery had 1100 graves and there were many other unmarked graves in the bush. On her return to Perth, as Mrs Castieau, she was involved in the setting up of the Home of Peace.

1895

HARRY BOAN

Retailer

Harry Boan, a Victorian commercial traveller born in 1860, had followed Australian mining booms not as a prospector but as a merchant. He and his brother had established a successful retail business in a galvanised iron shed in Broken Hill in the late 1880s. In 1895, Harry Boan joined the eastern exodus to Western Australia. With more foresight than the local traders who predicted failure for any business out of Hay Street, he built his Wellington Street warehouse opposite the railway station in what was still sand-track and swamp. The store was an instant success - its doors and windows were broken in the opening day crush. By 1911 Boans was housed in a splendid store with frontages on Wellington and Murray Streets, modelled on the best European and American emporiums. It sold everything from groceries and ironmongery to Paris hats, "the leader of style in the Western metropolis". The city store closed its doors in 1986. There were many suburban and country branches as well. Harry Boan made himself a place in WA society as a philanthropist, particularly in connection with the Children's Hospital, racehorse owner and member of the Legislative Council. He died in 1941.

1895



1896

FAIZ & TAGH MAHOMET

Camel Drivers

Camels had first been brought to Australia by Thomas Elder in the early 1860s; their “Afghan” drivers came not from Afghanistan but from Karachi. Strings of pack camels with their turbaned drivers were used throughout arid Australia by explorers, prospectors and pastoralists. They carried provisions, water, liquor, mining equipment and the wool clip. Faiz and Tagh Mahomet began as camel owners in South Australia and desert gold in WA created a new field for their animals. They started as agents for Elders but by the early 1890s the brothers were well established on their own behalf in Geraldton, servicing the Murchison goldfields and sending camel trains to Cue and the Yilgarn fields, and later to Coolgardie. Their “fleet” was one of the largest in the State. Their press advertisements promised that “the greatest care is taken to provide first class animals that will stand a drought. Experienced and willing servants are sent out with camels if so desired by prospectors”. Tagh Mahomet died at the hands of a fellow Afghan while at prayer in the Coolgardie mosque. Other Afghan drivers faded from the goldfields with the end of alluvial gold and the advent of the railway.

1897

AMY JANE BEST

Teacher

Amy Best came to Perth in 1885 to an appointment as headmistress of the Anglican Bishop's Girls College. She was a Tasmanian with wide experience as a teacher and governess. When Bishop's College had to close in 1888, she opened her own non-denominational school, the Central High School for Girls, known to everyone as "Miss Best's". There were many small private schools during the 1880s and 1890s, but few matched her high educational standards, or her sense of fairness and of the importance of serious education for girls. She was one of the founders of the Karrakatta Club which worked to educate its women members in social issues and win them the vote. Her school offered education for girls up to eighteen years old, in modern subjects including botany and physiology. Her chief love was English literature, a love which is commemorated in the Amy Jane Best prize awarded annually by the University of Western Australia to an outstanding woman student of English literature.

"Miss Best's" closed in 1907 when she retired.

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1897



1898

WILLIAM PATERSON

Manager - Agricultural Bank

Before becoming manager of the new Agricultural Bank in 1894, William Paterson had had farming experience of all sorts as manager of the family farm at Pinjarra which included cereals, grape vines and timber, and as a pioneer of the Kimberleys in the early 1880s. The Kimberleys sheep venture failed and Paterson returned to the south. He was elected to the old Legislative Council in its last session and then to the new Legislative Assembly for the Murray seat. In parliament, he supported Forrest's schemes for the encouragement of "a bold peasantry", which Forrest had begun while still Surveyor-General. As Premier, he pushed railways into agricultural areas, set up a WA Bureau of Agriculture and made free small farms available to settlers prepared to work them, with loans from the Agricultural Bank to finance clearing, fencing and other improvements. Forrest's idea was that T'othersiders drawn to WA by gold were to settle down as homesteaders when the easy gold ran out. The Agricultural Bank opened in 1894 with a manager, Paterson, and one clerk. They were overwhelmed with applications for loans. Paterson had to visit each farm personally before approving a loan and he was as much farm adviser to new settlers as he was banker. By 1900, 1039 loans had been approved. He was manager of the Bank for 25 years, in later years trying to resist government policies of expansion into marginal lands.

1899

DAISY BATES

Friend of Aborigines

Daisy Bates, an Irish girl, first came to Australia in 1884. She married a Queensland drover, but when her marriage failed she returned to England and worked as a journalist. A commission from The Times to report on alleged white cruelty to Aborigines brought her to WA in 1899. Sympathetic to their warm hospitality, mysticism and nomadic life, she was drawn instinctively to the Aboriginal people. She did not have the missionary's concern for conversion and assimilation but was able to accept tribal life on its own terms, and became a friend to whom tribal secrets were entrusted, "Kabbarli" or Grandmother to the people amongst whom she lived. Daisy Bates work began at Beagle Bay in the North where she worked alongside Bishop Gibney in saving the Mission there. She was later employed by the Government as an ethnographer, to record the life of the disappearing Aborigines of the South-West. An enigmatic figure in prim Edwardian clothes, she set up her tent near Aboriginal camps, sharing her tea and bread rations with her friends. In the city, she was an accepted authority and her lectures interpreted Aborigines to white society in a way no-one had done before. In 1914 she sold her pastoral property and used the money to ease the life of the dwindling tribes along the 'trans' train line. She lived amongst them in the South Australian desert until old age brought her back to the city in 1940.

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1899



1900

JOHN WATERS KIRWAN

Goldfields Editor

John Kirwan was an Irish journalist who had emigrated to Queensland in 1889. The gold-rush brought him to Kalgoorlie in 1895 where he became Editor-in-Chief and part owner of the Kalgoorlie Miner and Western Argus. Western Australia's population had increased enormously due to gold - 45,000 in 1890 and then 81,600 in 1894 - and a third of the total, mainly migrants from the eastern goldfields, lived on the Goldfields. The daily Kalgoorlie Miner was their newspaper. Kirwan was a constant critic of the Forrest government which he saw as dominated by the old colonial landed interests centred on Perth, the "Swan Settlement Crowd". To him, the Goldfields and its migrants had "elevated West Australia from the depths of poverty, stagnation and obscurity" and in return they wanted a fair share of seats in parliament, a railway to Esperance and intercolonial free trade. The Kalgoorlie Miner was the colony's most ardent advocate of federation and when it seemed doubtful whether Forrest would support West Australian entry into the Commonwealth, Kirwan led the "Separation for Federation" movement which reached its peak in 1900 with a monster petition to the Queen. Kalgoorlie Member of the House of Representatives in the first Federal Parliament, he was from 1908 to 1946 also an Independent Member of the State Legislative Council and for 20 years its President.

1901

LIEUT F.W. BELL V.C.

War Hero

Lieutenant F W Bell won the first West Australian Victoria Cross in the only military campaign that WA entered in its own right. The Boer War was enthusiastically supported by the ardent imperialist colonials in WA and over 2000 men volunteered for the first contingent of 125. Altogether more than 1000 men and 1000 horses went to South Africa from Western Australia. Private Bell, a descendant of a petty officer who came with Stirling, was a member of the First Contingent and, as a lieutenant, of the Sixth and last Contingent. He won his V.C. for gallantry during a Boer ambush at Brakpan in May 1901, giving his horse to a wounded comrade and defending him with rapid fire while he rode to safety. He fought again in the Great War, which claimed the lives of his two brothers at Gallipoli and Pozieres.

1901's



1902

C. Y. O'CONNOR

Engineer

Charles Yelverton O'Connor, an Irish engineer, came to Western Australia in 1891 on John Forrest's invitation, from a civil engineering career in New Zealand. His commission was to build "railways, harbours, everything". His first task was the construction of a safe harbour at Fremantle for the mail steamers that still only called at Albany. Because of the rock bar blocking the mouth of the Swan River, previous plans had been based on extensions to the outer harbour. O'Connor, by contrast, arrived at a characteristically independent and imaginative solution and recommended the blasting of the bare rock and deepening of the estuary to create a safe inner harbour that would serve Fremantle for the foreseeable future. His harbour was opened in 1897 and the first P & O mail steamer berthed in 1900. In the meantime, to 1896, O'Connor had also been acting general manager of the government railways. With his improvement and new lines, they made a profit for the first time. The problems of water shortage beyond the coast had been obvious during his administration of the railways but became acute with the development of the Eastern Goldfields. His engineers in the Goldfields Water Supply used all manner of means to provide water, but with limited success. O'Connor, again, looked for an innovative permanent solution - a Darling Range Dam with 525 km of pipeline to the Goldfields, supplying farmland on the way. Forrest supported the scheme and work began in 1898. By the end of 1902 Mundaring Weir was completed, and pipeline and pumping stations installed. Overcome by bitter criticism of the project, O'Connor committed suicide and did not see the water flow into the Goldfields reservoirs or the farm development that followed the pipeline.

1903

ANDREW GIBB MAITLAND

Geologist

Born in Britain in 1864, Andrew Maitland trained as an engineer and geologist at Leeds University. He migrated to Queensland in 1888 where he was Assistant Government Geologist involved in survey work. From 1891 he conducted geological surveys in New Guinea until Forrest's government invited him to become the WA Government Geologist in 1896. He retired in 1926. His work was twofold. As Government Geologist he set up an efficient department with well-equipped laboratory and systematic geological survey team. At the end of his work, he had conducted a thorough survey of the Pilbara Goldfield 1903-06, discovered North West artesian water - an enormously important find - and produced a significant pioneering geological map of the State. As a scientist in general he was active in fostering science and the scientific method in the Mueller Botanic Society, later the Natural History & Science Society of WA. He was a Council member of the Royal Society in WA and local secretary of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science. The Royal Society awarded him its Kelvin Medal in 1937.

1903's



1904

SIR WALTER JAMES

Premier

Born in 1863 the son of a Perth publican, Walter James became a lawyer and political activist determined to challenge the power of the landed conservatives and to champion the underprivileged. In the 1880s he was a stalwart of the Liberal Association whose object was “to destroy the cliquism that has so long ruled the colony”. He was also founder of the WA Football Association. Walter James became more and more the spokesman for the working classes during the 1890s. He was a member of the Perth City Council, and Member of the Legislative Assembly for East Perth. In parliament from 1894, he supported Forrest’s program of public works and land settlement but insisted that “roads and bridges are not enough”. He worked in parliament for votes for women, workers’ compensation, early shop closing, the legalisation of trade unions and the establishment of an Arbitration Court. He was Minister without Portfolio in the short-lived government of George Leake. On Leake’s death in 1902, James had enough support to form his own government committed to social reform. His government accomplished the reform of mental health care and the treatment of prisoners, and began a number of state enterprises. However his main concern was to reduce the power of the conservative Upper House. Predictably, the Legislative Council defeated his proposals. In the 1904 elections the new Labor Party and the remainder of the Forrest party caught James and his supporters in the middle. James resigned from parliament, returning to legal practice, was knighted in 1907, became president of the Weld Club, a director of The West Australian and a pillar of the Anglican Church.

1905

CHARLES HARPER

Agriculturist - Newspaperman - Legislator

Charles Harper, born in the colony in 1842, is supposed to have been given a horse and cart, a little money and stores at the age of sixteen, and sent off to find himself a farm. Between then and his settling at Woodbridge in 1879, (Governor Stirling's original Guildford grant) he farmed near York, explored the Yilgarn, took up pearling and with the proceeds bought a share in a North-West station. In 1879 he also bought the Western Australian Times which as the daily The West Australian was the colony's leading conservative paper, critical of responsible government and federation. In 1885 he established the Western Mail which became the medium for publicising progressive agricultural ideas, many of them developed or tested by Harper on his Woodbridge farm. The Mail was widely read by the new farmers of the 1890s and 1900s. A member of the old Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly from 1890-1905, he spoke for the "independent country gentleman" committed to a rurally based society though, ironically, his opposition to Walter James in 1904 helped bring WA's first Labor Government to power. In 1905 he chaired the Royal Commission on Immigration which investigated the possible extension eastward into dry land of the existing wheat country. The recommendations of his Commission were the basis of the land settlement policies of the next decade. A devout Anglican, he was the founder of Guildford Grammar School.

1905



1906

ADAM BAIRD

Retailer

Adam Baird was a Ballarat engineer, attracted to WA like so many others during the 1890s, by work on the Goldfields. He practised as a civil engineer until 1899 when he joined his older brothers William and Robert and their three sisters in their Goldfields retailing business, specialising in hardware. In 1906 the business expanded to Perth with handsome premises in Baird's Arcade. In its Murray Street premises, from 1917, Bairds became the countryman's store, and its catalogues "Bairds' Bible". During the Depression so many country clients paid in kind that Bairds bought into a flour mill and set up their own egg-grading floor. Bairds remained very much a family business involving the brothers, then their children. Adam was chairman of directors, and William managing director until his death in 1947 when Adam took over the position. The company had diverse interests - land development in Narembeen, photographic studios, knitting mills - and Adam Baird was a foundation director of Industrial Extracts and a director of Plaimar Ltd. He died in 1954, the last of the original Baird brothers and in 1969 Bairds Ltd became the WA branch of the Myer Emporium.

1907

E. M. COLLICK

Goldfields Priest

The Reverend Edward Collick arrived from England in 1894 as a young cleric fresh from a curacy in the slums of the East End, to establish the Anglican Church on the Goldfields. His first work, on recovering from typhoid, was to help nurse the many miners sick in the same epidemic. He conducted the burials of over two hundred of them, in improvised packing case coffins with the legend "Keep in a cool place" showing through the paint. He struggled to establish the structures of Anglicism on the Goldfields - church buildings, chairs and formal service - but the work which made him universally beloved was his social work. He set up schools, sporting clubs and debating societies, and impoverished himself to help needy miners and Aborigines. The gold miners judged him 'a true Christian'. After a period as Boer War Chaplain and a few years back in England, he returned to Kalgoorlie in 1905. The Goldfields' communities were now settled ones and the Church was organised into formal parishes. Collick was appointed rector of Boulder in 1907 and in 1912 Archdeacon for the Goldfields. From 1924 until 1950 when he retired at 81 years as the longest serving priest of the Anglican Church in WA, he was rector of St John's Fremantle where he continued to work at "practical Christianity", giving his stipend and sometimes the rectory furniture to the needy.

1907's

1908

ALFRED WERNAM CANNING

Surveyor

Tall, lean and sunburnt, Canning was a bushman of great standing and a commanding leader. He was a surveyor in NSW. before coming to WA in 1893 to work as a government contract surveyor. His first epic survey was from Starvation Harbour east of Albany, north over 1700 kilometres to the north-west coast, to lay out the route for the rabbit proof fence which was built, belatedly, to try to halt the westward spread of rabbits across the Nullarbor into WA agricultural and pastoral land. The country was mostly unsettled and unexplored semi-desert and its survey took four years of severe hardship, from 1901. In 1906-07 he led the survey expedition which mapped a stock route from Wiluna 1440km to Halls Creek. For the first part of the survey, Canning used John Forrest's maps. It was intended to provide an overland stock route to serve the Goldfields market and to eliminate the costly and awful Kimberley cattle tick disease. Between 1908 and 1910 Canning and his men travelled the route, marking it and sinking 52 wells. Using pack camels, they carried all their supplies with them and were completely out of touch with white people until their arrival in the East Kimberley two years later. Canning saw the stock route, which was named after him, as a "new highway" to open up pastoral and mining land, but it was scarcely used until the Second World War. The first stockmen to use it after its completion were attacked by Aborigines protecting their water holes.

1909

JAMES MITCHELL

Minister of Lands

James Mitchell's life spanned Western Australia's development from convict colony to a State on the threshold of an industrial boom. Son of a Bunbury grazier, he began as a clerk in the West Australian Bank in 1885 and by 1895 was its Northam manager and a successful local farmer. He entered parliament in 1905 and was appointed an honorary minister in 1906. As Minister for Lands and Agriculture from 1909-1911, it was his energy and optimism that implemented the recommendations of the 1905 Royal Commission and opened up the eastern wheatbelt for settlement. The area of land under wheat trebled between 1905 and 1911. Mitchell's new farmers were gold miners, retrenched civil servants and unemployed labourers. His policies gave them land, capital, equipment and railways but he could not guarantee rainfall and some wheatbelt pioneers were forced to abandon their farms in the terrible droughts of 1912-14. While National Party Premier from 1919-24, with the same optimism and enthusiasm, Mitchell initiated the group settlement scheme which brought British migrants to pioneer dairying in the karri forest region of the South-West. Again the hardships were real, but West Australians in general shared his optimism and his picture of an agricultural WA. "We have a great country, and one with ample room to provide full opportunities for every individual in it" he commented. As Lieutenant-Governor and Governor from 1933 to 1951, he articulated this philosophy for the rest of his life.

1909's

1910

W.E. BOLD

Town Clerk

William Bold was Town Clerk of the City of Perth from 1901 to 1944. He had come to Perth from England in 1896, a young man of 23 with engineering and clerical work behind him. As Town Clerk his personal formality amazed his Councillors - he regularly wore morning coat and top hat, and wig and gown in Council - but he was an efficient, thorough administrator and a visionary foreseeing a Greater Perth, with good housing for its workers, parks and playgrounds, and municipally-run service facilities. Bold was one of the pioneers and chief champions of town planning in WA, in the Council, the Municipal Officers Association and the Town Planning Association. His successes included a series of conferences of Perth municipalities like the one in 1910 which agreed in principle with the amalgamation of local governments. By 1917 North Perth, Leederville and Victoria Park had been added to the City of Perth. In 1914, Council sent Bold on a world tour and he came back with visions of Perth as a garden city which he put into practice in the new suburbs of Floreat Park, Wembley and City Beach. At his instigation, swamp land west and east of the city was acquired by Council and reclaimed as parks and children's playgrounds. When he retired in 1944, the City of Perth bore the stamp of William Bold more than that of any other man.

1911

GEORGE LOWE SUTTON

Agricultural Scientist

George Sutton had been a colleague in NSW of William Farrer the famous wheat-breed experimenter, before James Mitchell invited him to become the first Commissioner of the Wheatbelt in 1911, with three other agriculture commissioners. He was immediately in tune with Mitchell's land development policies and worked hand in hand with him. The settlers on the newly-surveyed eastern dryland farms had their loans from the Agricultural Bank, but often no previous farming experience, and there was no reservoir of previous farming knowledge on which to draw. Living conditions were crude and lonely, but many of the new farmers made a success of the venture with the support and advice of Sutton and his department. He set up a series of demonstration and research farms where he tested new machines, experimented with the use of fallowing, super-phosphates and lupins and subterranean clovers. He bred new wheat strains expressly for the WA wheatbelt; the most successful strains "Nabawa" and "Bencubbin" dominated the Australian wheat industry until the 1950s. To convert WA farmers to the use of super and the new wheat strains and farm practices, he travelled thousands of kilometres to visit farms and address meetings. He issued regular bulletins, ran summer schools for farmers' wives and when Westralian Farmers began the first WA radio station Sutton was one of its first broadcasters. From 1921 to 1937, he was Director of Agriculture. When he retired, the University of WA awarded him its first honorary Doctorate of Science in Agriculture.

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1911



1912

JOSEPH PARSONS

Headmaster

Joseph Parsons came to Western Australia in 1899 as one of Inspector-General Jackson's eastern states recruits to the state education service. Though only 24, he made his reputation as an effective headmaster at the Boulder school. Before his appointment as headmaster of Perth Modern School he lectured at the new Claremont Teachers' College, was headmaster of Coolgardie School and from 1905 to 1912 of Perth Boys School as well as briefly being a district inspector. Perth Modern School was opened in 1911, the first state secondary school, as part of the chain of free state education from primary school to university. Entrance was by scholarship and the curriculum was "modern" but academic. Headmaster between 1912 and 1939, Parsons emphasised academic excellence and school spirit - in both of these Perth Modern School was outstanding. The biographies of numerous state and national leaders in many fields were to contain the phrase "educated at Perth Modern School". One of them, Dr T L Robertson, then WA Director of Education, on Parson's death in 1951, paid tribute to him as "one of the great headmasters of Australia".

1913

SIR J. WINTHROP HACKETT

Editor and Philanthropist

John Winthrop Hackett was an Irish lawyer who emigrated to NSW and turned journalist and university tutor. He came to WA in 1882 in an unsuccessful venture as Gascoyne pastoralist. At the same time, he met Charles Harper who offered him a partnership in *The West Australian*. By the end of the 1880s Hackett was editor and remained so until his death in 1916. His personal influence as editor of the colony's and state's leading newspaper was enormous and he was also a member of the Legislative Council 1890-1916. The West gave wholehearted support to Forrest's land settlement program, and to the creation of a secular state education system. Hackett, like Forrest, was guarded in his support of federation.

Hackett used the columns of the West to champion the cause of a free local university open to all to serve the practical needs of the local community, and as "the coping stone" of the state education system.

As the University of Western Australia's first Chancellor, his casting vote made it free of fees, and his philanthropy endowed the Chair of Agriculture, as it had also enabled the Art Gallery to acquire important Australian works. Knighted in 1911, he was created K.C.M.G. in 1913. He died in 1916 leaving his estate to the University and the Anglican Church. When the estate was realised in 1926, there were sufficient funds to erect splendid buildings on the Crawley campus to replace the University's makeshift premises, and to endow scholarships and bursaries as well as the salary of a permanent vice-chancellor.

1913



1914

ERNEST WILLIAM TOMLINSON

Industrialist

The boy Ernest Tomlinson came to Perth from England with his family in 1884 and was apprenticed to his father as fitter and turner; then he studied for a while at the Wellington Technical College, New Zealand. After working in the Government Locomotive workshops he and his brother Edward set themselves up in the late 1890s as general engineers in Perth. Their workshop included an iron foundry, pattern-shop, machine shop, and a boiler-making shop. Most of their work came from the mining and timber industries, though Tomlinsons were the successful tenderers for the erection of the Horseshoe Bridge in William Street. In 1914 Ernest Tomlinson personally machined an 18lb. shell and persuaded the Federal Government that it should be manufactured in WA. Using borrowed machine tools, he was the honorary manager on the WA Munitions Factory during the Great War. He was also actively involved in developing other industries as a director of Plaistowes and of Plaimar Ltd which financed industrial chemist Horace Marr's experiments with blackboy resin. This became Industrial Extracts Ltd which produced tannin under contract to the British Army during the World War. Secondary industry was slow to grow in WA before the 1950s; enterprising men like Tomlinson were its chief promoters.

1915

LIEUT H.V. THROSSELL, V.C.

War Hero

Western Australians greeted the outbreak of war in 1914 with overwhelming patriotic devotion to Britain and determination to prove their military courage. In all, Western Australia sent 32,231 volunteers with the Australian Expeditionary Forces, over a third of the State's men of military age, and eleven of them won the V.C., the first being H V Throssell. Born in Northam in 1884, the son of George Throssell, WA's second Premier, Hugo Throssell enlisted early in the Great War and won his V.C. at Gallipoli in August 1915. He and his comrades, members of the A.I.F. 10th Light Horse but fighting as infantry, were to recapture Hill 60. They rushed the Turkish position and drove them out with hand-to-hand fighting but the Turks counter-attacked with hand-thrown bombs and bayonets before the trenches could be reinforced. Many of the 10th were killed or injured. Throssell and his men fought tenaciously, even catching the Turkish bombs in flight and throwing them back. He kept his men together by his own courage and wit, and refused to leave the firing line although wounded several times. Promoted to lieutenant in early 1916, he was invalided home to light duties but insisted on rejoining his regiment for service in Sinai and Palestine where he was again wounded and his brother killed. After the war he married writer Katharine Susannah Prichard and supported her anti-war activities. He was a member of the Soldier Settlers Board and had a property in Greenmount. He died in 1933, as much a war casualty as those of his men who died on Hill 60.

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1915

1916

SENATOR GEORGE PEARCE

Minister for Defence

George Pearce was a South Australian, born in 1870. He left school at the age of 11, became a carpenter and joiner, then came to WA in 1894 to try his luck on the Goldfields. By the late 1890s he was a foreman carpenter at Whittakers, Subiaco, and one of the leaders of the new Trades and Labor Council. A keen federalist, he was elected to the first Senate in 1901 and remained a Senator till his defeat in 1937. He held a variety of cabinet positions in Labor, Nationalist and United Australia Party governments and for many years was his party's leader in the Senate, often regarded as 'the greatest leader the Senate has had'. His most important work however was as Minister for Defence between 1909-21 and 1932-4. In the Fisher Labor Government before the Great War, he introduced compulsory national service, not as a militarist but as a believer in a citizen defence force. As an imperialist he saw Australia's defence as part of Imperial defence but as a nationalist he was determined to create distinctively Australian defence forces. By 1916 he was convinced, with Prime Minister Hughes, that conscription was necessary and his own State supported him although the conscription referenda were defeated nationally. For the first half of 1916 Pearce was both Minister for Defence and Acting Prime Minister. By the time of his electoral defeat in 1937 he had had an influential federal political career unmatched by any other WA politician.

1917

CAPT. H. W. MURRAY, V.C.

War Hero

Henry Murray was born in Tasmania in 1884, but spent many years as a bushman in remote parts of WA. At the outbreak of war in 1914 he was a timber-getter in the South West. He immediately enlisted and took part in the Gallipoli landing as a gunner with the 16th Battalion. Within a month he had won a Distinguished Conduct Medal and promotion to Lance Corporal. By the end of the War through a succession of promotions, he had more fighting decorations than any other infantry soldier in the British Army of the Great War. In early 1916, as a captain, he was transferred to France with the 13th Battalion. Murray gained a D.S.O. in August 1916 at Mouquet Farm which he stormed with his men. Superior force drove them back but it later took 3000 men actually to capture the position. In February 1917 he won his V.C. in a freezing night attack on Stormy Trench near Gueudecourt, leading bayonet charges, exploring enemy trenches, carrying the wounded to safety and keeping his men together. When they were relieved the next night, only 48 of the 140 men of the Company remained. At Bullecourt he earned a bar to his D.S.O. and by the end of the war the French Croix de Guerre and promotion to lieutenant-colonel. In May 1919 he was made C.M.G. and retired to a cattle station in North Queensland, the archetypal defiant tenacious bushman-soldier, rising through the ranks.

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1917



1918

***LIEUT-GEN. SIR J.J. TALBOT
HOBBS***

Soldier & Architect

Before the outbreak of war in 1914, Talbot Hobbs had combined two careers as one of Perth's leading architects and as a militia officer. He had migrated to WA in 1887 as a young architectural draftsman and soon had a flourishing practice and many handsome buildings to his credit including Scots Church in Fremantle, the Swan Brewery and mansions in South Perth and Peppermint Grove. After 1905 with his partners, Smith & Forbes, he designed many of the city buildings for the newly prosperous capital such as WA Trustees, Savoy Hotel and Weld Club. As a civilian soldier, he joined the volunteer field artillery, rising from sergeant to colonel commanding the 22nd Infantry Brigade in 1913 and was an expert in gunnery. He was appointed divisional Commander Royal Artillery on the outbreak of war and went with his men to Gallipoli and shared their bitter experience. Now a brigadier, Hobbs accompanied his division to France where they took part in the great battles of 1916 - the Somme, Pozieres, Ypres. In January 1917 he was promoted to major-general in command of the Fifth Division. In April 1918, his division recaptured Villiers Bretonneux. In November 1918 he was promoted to lieutenant-general and created K.C.M.G. He had earned the unflagging devotion of his troops and a fine reputation as a soldier. He was back at his architect's desk the day of his return to Perth in October 1919. Amongst his post-war work was the State War Memorial.

1919

NORMAN BREARLEY

Aviation Pioneer

Norman Brearley revolutionised transport over Western Australia's vast distances. In 1917 the railway had finally crossed the continent and a couple of intrepid motorists had even driven to Sydney, but it was a long, slow journey. Ships were still the only way of reaching the North, and then horse or camel inland. Brearley, a Victorian, was a much-decorated airman in the Great War. He had married a West Australian and came back to WA after the war as Major Brearley, with two ex-military bi-planes bought with his deferred services pay. With these he dazzled WA crowds with his stunt flying. "No exhibition could have revealed a more perfect control, a more easy confidence, or a more masterly handling of an aeroplane," said *The West Australian* in August 1919 - even though on that occasion he brought down a fence, landing in the W.A.C.A. grounds. Brearley took out the first commercial pilot's licence issued by the Federal authorities and in 1921 won the contract to operate a weekly passenger and mail air service between Geraldton and Derby in the Kimberleys, where the landing strip was the swamp flat at low tide. It was the first commercial air service in Australia. He selected and trained pilots (including Charles Kingsford Smith), organised landing strips and assembled planes as well as administering West Australian Airways and advising the founders of Qantas. In 1929 the company opened an air service between Perth and Adelaide using Hercules bi-planes carrying 14 passengers. But Brearley was the man who "personally introduced the science of flying . . . to the people of this state".

1919's

1920

KINGSLEY FAIRBRIDGE

Founder of Child Migration

Kingsley Fairbridge grew up on the veldts of South Africa and Rhodesia at the end of the nineteenth century, a visionary and ardent imperialist even as a child. He was a Rhodes Scholar in England in 1909 and saw a way of combining the rescue of slum children from their wretched condition and the peopling of the empty spaces of the Empire with British farmers. He founded the Child Emigration Society in 1909 and sought a sympathetic government in the Dominions of the Empire. The West Australian Government offered him help in establishing a farm school in WA and in 1913 Fairbridge and his wife arrived with the first 13 slum boys and settled on a run-down 60-hectare farm. After the 1914-18 war Fairbridge raised money in England to buy 1200-hectares near Pinjarra and the Fairbridge farm-school was opened in 1920 with 160 English city children, some of them war orphans. Fairbridge did much of the farm and building work himself and passed on to his charges his love of the British Empire; "I tell them," he wrote in a 1921 brochure, "that they are Englishmen and citizens of the British Empire and that the land of their adoption is Western Australia". He died, worn out, in 1924 but the farm school continued to grow. In 1936 there were 376 boys and girls and 26 cottages at Pinjarra and other farm schools in NSW and Canada. After the World War, Fairbridge Farm School offered help to whole families wanting to migrate, caring for the children while parents established themselves.

1921

EDITH DIRCKSEY COWAN

M.L.A.

Edith Cowan was born into a York pioneering family in 1861 and she herself was a pioneer in the emergence of West Australian women into public life. She was a leader in virtually every social welfare and women's rights organisation from the mid-1890s to her death in 1932, including the Karrakatta Club, the North Fremantle District Board of Education, Children's Protection Society, House of Mercy, the Women's Service Guild and the National Council of Women. She was also a justice of the peace and a member of the bench of the Children's Court. After the First World War (during which Edith Cowan had worked for the Recruiting Committee, the Red Cross, and soldiers' welfare committees) women, Edith Cowan amongst them, claimed the rights of full citizenship, including the right to sit in parliament. This latter was granted in 1920. For Cowan it was a matter both of abstract justice for women and a practical way of promoting reforms to benefit women and children. She was elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1921 as the Nationalist member for West Perth, the first woman member of an Australian parliament. She pursued women's interests with dignity and determination, despite inevitable derision and opposition. One of her private member's bills, in particular, opened the legal profession to women. In the 1924 elections, West Perth business interests opposed her, her women supporters were disunited and she was defeated. On her death in 1932 her colleagues erected a clock-tower memorial to her at the gates of Kings Park.

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1922

THOMAS AHERN

Retailer

Thomas Ahern was one of the many children of a poor Irish farming couple. There were six sons and only a small farm so Tom was apprenticed to a draper in 1899 and emigrated to WA in 1911 as one of the thousands of migrants who came to the State in the first decade or so of the new century. He began work in Boulder at Brennan's drapery but the climate did not suit his bride-to-be so he moved to Perth to manage the dresses, silks and manchester departments of the Bon Marche store until 1918 when he took over as manager of Brennans Perth store. His own 'emporium', Aherns Ltd, was opened in 1922 with a 'Grand Opening Sale and a vocal concert'. The store was an immediate success; 50 employees in 1922 had become 200 in 1926, but Thomas Ahern took a fatherly interest in them all. He was a generous benefactor to Catholic schools, hospitals and convents and in 1927 was made a Papal Knight. He died in 1970 at the age of 85. Aherns' city store and three in the suburbs, were taken over by David Jones in 2002.

1923

BESSIE RISCHBIETH

Feminist

Bessie Rischbieth, a South Australian born in 1876, settled in Perth on her marriage to a wealthy merchant and quickly involved herself in the social welfare and women's rights groups working in the 1900s, in particular the Women's Service Guild. Like Edith Cowan, she was active in campaigns for a public hospital for women, kindergartens and for women police and justices of the peace, and she was for many years president or vice president of the Women's Service Guild. In 1920, the Guild established a monthly paper "The Dawn" which Bessie Rischbieth edited and used to promote a coordinated federal women's organisation which she set up in 1921, the Australian Federation of Women Voters, of which she was president from 1921 to 1942. She led the first Australian delegation to the Rome Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance in 1923. Her work nationally and internationally was always in terms of her internationalist vision and of the Suffrage Alliance's basic principle "That men and women are born equally free and independent members of the human race; equally endowed with intelligence and ability, and equally entitled to a free exercise of their individual rights and liberties". She was an active member of numerous other community organisations like the League of Nations Union and the anti-secession movement in the 1930s. Always a forceful and determined woman, her leadership style was increasingly challenged after the World War Two and the Federation of Women Voters was eclipsed by new feminist groups, but Bessie Rischbeith maintained her involvement in social issues to the end of her life.

1923's



1924

PHILIP COLLIER

Premier

Philip Collier was yet another of the Eastern States migrants to the WA goldfields. He had been a trade union official and foreman of the Melbourne sewerage works when he came to WA in 1904 to work underground in the Perseverance Gold Mine, Boulder. The Labor movement was at the centre of his life and he quickly became a leader in the Goldfields Trades & Labor Council and entered the Legislative Assembly as the member for Boulder in 1905 and was the local member until his death in 1948. He held the portfolios of Mines, Railways and Water Supplies. When the Labor Party split over the conscription issue, just as in the early years of the Depression he held the Party together against the tensions that split eastern states branches. He was Premier from 1924 to 1930, a thoroughly efficient administrator and a highly regarded public leader. His government moderated but continued Mitchell's rural development policies and he was on good personal terms with Mitchell. He was Premier again from 1933 to 1936 and showed his broad political skills again in his management of the secession movement and his appointment of Mitchell as Lieutenant Governor. But these were years of decline and he retired to the back benches in 1936, his reputation as a fine party and State leader secured by his work in the twenties.

1925

JAMES THOMPSON

Railway Engineer

James or Jas Thompson as he was known, was an Irishman with colonial engineering experience. Recruited by O'Connor he came to WA in 1891 to work as a field engineer in charge of railway construction with O'Connor as his Chief. He held that position to 1912, and from 1904 to 1925 was the Public Works Department's Engineer in Chief with the oversight of all public works projects during Western Australia's 'great railway age'. The map of railway development was the map of economic development; the first Government line ran from Geraldton to Northampton from 1879 to service the lead and copper mines, then came the Fremantle to Guildford line and on into the Avon Valley agricultural districts, and the land-grant railways in the 1880s, then the Goldfields' lines of the 1890s. The great railway boom over which Thompson presided criss-crossed the Wheatbelt with light lines. In the second half of the twentieth century railway construction followed the mineral boom, with the privately constructed iron-ore lines of the North-West and the standard gauge line from Kalgoorlie to the Kwinana industrial area. Many of the lines built in Thompson's time for the Wheatbelt are now closed. They were part of the Government's overall policy of assistance to the new eastern-land farmers; built quickly and cheaply (sleepers were sometimes cut from the trees nearby) and often running at a loss. Lines extended in a network of loops and sidings which meant that few farmers were more than 25kms from the line. During Thompson's period in office as Engineer in Chief, 4700kms of line were opened, linking dozens of country centres, Meekatharra to Mullewa, Merredin to Narrogin, Yuna to Woharing, Esperance to Kalgoorlie.

1925's

1926

PHIL MATSON

Footballer

Australian Rules Football is supposed to have begun on the Victorian gold-diggings in the 1850s; the first games were played by huge teams with goal-posts a mile apart. The rules were formalised in the 1860s by the game's Victorian promoters and by the end of the 1870s it was being played in WA. However, the game did not really 'takeoff' until the gold-rushes with the influx of footballer t'othersiders. Phil Matson was one of these. He came to the Goldfields in 1898 as a youth of 14 and returned home briefly to South Australia after a couple of years, losing his savings in a shipboard two-up game. The whole family came back to WA in the early 1900s and several of the Matson sons took up land in the Wheatbelt, around Wagin and Kukerin. In order to concentrate on football and swimming, Phil Matson found work wherever he could, working for example, in a surface job at a Boulder mine while he played football for Boulder City. After a couple of years back in South Australia, playing football for Sturt and driving a tram, he returned to WA and an extraordinary football career. He played for Subiaco from 1912-15 coaching them twice to premierships. In 1918 he moved to East Perth. The Club had grown from a team of workers from the Union Soap Works and Excelsior Confectionery factory in 1902. In the 1920s some of the best players were young men from the East Perth railways and powerhouse. Matson coached them to five consecutive premierships, 1919-23, a League record - in three he was a player-coach. In 1926, he coached the WA state team which defeated Victoria twice in one year. He was a brilliant player and a tough, inspiring coach. The first of the football superstars, he died in a car accident in mid-1928.

1927

W.J. WINTERBOTTOM

Automotive Pioneer

W J Winterbottom started his career as a bicycle dealer, but by the end of the First World War when there were over 2500 cars and trucks on Western Australian roads, Winterbottom saw that the future belonged to the internal combustion engine, though it would be well into the Twenties before the city roads belonged to the automobile. In 1920 cars in St George's Terrace still sometimes had to negotiate their way through cows being driven to the abattoirs. In 1916 Winterbottom secured the WA agency for Dodge vehicles; he was then one of 12 motor dealers. In his first year of business, he sold 100 black Dodge tourers, driving each shipment in convoy from Fremantle along the pot-holed track that was the Perth-Fremantle road. His Hay Street workshop housed the first petrol-bowser in WA. By the end of 1925 the firm had extensive premises at the corner of the Terrace and Mill Street which served as headquarters until new premises were built in 1972. By the end of the first decade of business, Winterbottoms had sold 4000 new and used cars and later became leading tractor and commercial vehicle dealers.

1920's



1928

***KATHERINE SUSANNAH
PRICHARD***

Author

Katherine Susannah Prichard grew up in Tasmania and Melbourne. She combined her early journalistic and literary efforts with night-time attendance at Walter Murdoch's lectures at Melbourne University. In 1908, a woman of 25, she went to Europe and worked as a journalist, deeply shaken by the poverty and inequality she saw. In 1919 she married V.C. winner Hugo Throssell and settled on their Greenmount property. A year later she joined the infant Australian Communist Party and for the rest of her life was a dedicated party worker, publishing and public-speaking against the evils of capitalism and war. Her fiction expressed her political commitments but it also was deeply rooted in her love of the landscape and the people of Australia. Several of her best novels are set in Western Australia: *Working Bullocks* published in 1926 is set in the karri forests of the South-West; *Coonardoo* which shared first prize in the 1928 Bulletin novel competition (in which there were 524 entries) is a novel of the North-West, the tragic life of a black woman; and the trilogy, *The Roaring Nineties*, *Golden Miles* and *Winged Seeds* published between 1946 and 1950 traces the three generations of a working-class Kalgoorlie mining family. She belonged to the writers of the inter-war period, like Vance Palmer, Kylie Tennant, Frank Davison and others, who, in her own words, 'loved Australia and sought to make others care for the glorious potentialities of the country and the people'.

1929

ROBERTA JULL

Medical Practitioner

Roberta Jull came to WA in 1897 as Dr Roberta Stewart, newly qualified in medicine from the University of Glasgow. She was the first woman to practise medicine in WA, with a practice in Guildford. She soon married and retired but was actively involved with several social welfare organisations, like the House of Mercy for unmarried mothers and the Children's Protection Society, often as their honorary doctor. When her husband, Public Service Commissioner Martin Jull, died in 1917, she joined the Department of Public Health as medical officer for schools to which was added in the Twenties the task of Supervisor of Infant Health. She retired in 1928. As well as her day to day school health work, she lectured, broadcast and wrote for the press on child and infant health, much influenced by Dr Truby King in New Zealand. She talked about diet, care of infants in a hot climate, the health dangers of flies and the benefits of breast feeding. In 1929 she was a member of the Australian delegation to the League of Nations, extending her health and women's interests internationally on the committees of the League. She was always a keen local supporter of the League of Nations, and an executive member of the National Council of Women and the Australian Federation of University Women. A member of the University Senate, she worked for many years to establish a residential college for women. She died in 1960, aged 88.

1929's

A large, stylized number '1930' in a light brown color, oriented vertically on the left side of the page. The '1' is at the bottom, followed by '9', '3', and '0' at the top.

1930

SIG SCHLAM

Speedway Champion

Sig Schlam, born in Boulder, was drawn into motor-cycle racing as a salesman/mechanic in a Perth motor-cycle business. The sport had been brought to WA from New South Wales in 1927 by J Hoskins who went on to pioneer the sport in England. He and M S Brooking started the Claremont Speedway in 1928. Huge crowds packed the speedway for a “night of thrills” provided by dirt-track riders like Sig Schlam, who was quickly one of the star attractions and the idol of little boys who emulated his exploits on their push-bikes. He spent a year in England as a professional speedway rider and when he returned he was one of the world’s best. He won two Australian Championships and the prestigious title of ‘Trackmaster’. When the 1930-31 season opened, the sport had an official organisation, the WA Motor Cycling Association with a new cinder track at the W.A.C.A. ground. The president, Attorney-General T.A.L. Davy, described the sport as “clean and hard, and one in which courage and skill gained its reward”. Sig Schlam at 25 years was its epitome. Heavily handicapped, he won 5 firsts in 6 starts at the first meeting of the season. At the next meeting, he crashed into the safety fence and was killed.

1931

ALF & NELLIE ANGEL

Group Settlers

After the First World War the WA Government continued to encourage Wheatbelt settlement, now by British and Australian ex-servicemen, with cheap land, loans and sustenance wages. By 1929, 3000 soldier settlers were successfully working wheat and sheep farms. The Mitchell Government tried to develop a South-West dairy industry in a similar way, co-operating with the British Government from 1923 to bring migrants to WA. In 1923 the newly-wed Alf and Nellie Angel found their own way to WA from London where he had been a bank clerk and she a typist frightened of cows. They joined the Group Settlement Scheme in Perth and went to Group 25 in the karri forest out of Manjimup. Blocks were assigned by lot and cleared by the Group in turn. The Angels were lucky in that there was a small unlined weatherboard house on their block, left by an earlier 'groupie' who had already lost heart. Most settlers spent months in tents or corrugated iron sheds while the land was laboriously cleared. Many of the settlers simply walked off their blocks, overwhelmed by debt, homesickness, the loneliness and vastness of the forest, the primitive living conditions, unsympathetic foremen, and the unproductiveness of the land once cleared. The Government had assumed that land supporting huge trees would produce lush pasture and it took time to discover and remedy the lack of trace elements in the soil, and to establish subterranean clovers. Only the Collier Government's decision to write off \$6m of the settlers' debts saved the Angels from giving up.

1931's



1932

HAROLD BOAS

Architect & Planner

Harold Boas came to WA in 1905, a young Jewish architect from South Australia, to begin a 70 year career in architecture and town planning which in many ways mirrored the stages of the State's development. In the 1900s he was involved in the development of the new suburbs of Mount Lawley and Nedlands. The bricks for the Nedlands Park Hotel, which he designed, were carried to the site by barge because the site was then too remote for road transport. In 1914 Boas was the first secretary of the Town Planning Association and he was for many years a close associate of Town Clerk Bold in his town planning projects. Together they worked for the passing of the Town Planning Act of 1928 (an Australian first) and the creation of the Town Planning Committee of the Perth City Council in 1930. Between 1928 and 1930 he was Chairman of the Metropolitan Town Planning Commission. During the Twenties too he was a leading member of the Argonauts, a staunchly British and anti-communist political organisation. During the Thirties, Harold Boas travelled the State supervising the erection of silos for the new bulk handling of wheat and the hangars for West Australian Airways in the North West and across the Nullarbor. He and his partners designed the Adelphi Hotel and one of the first multi-storey office buildings, the 'Gledden' building. In 1976, a down-at-heel West Perth park was landscaped and re-named the Harold Boas Gardens in recognition of his work for the City.

1933

SISTER KATE CLUTTERBUCK

Founder of Children's Homes

A small band of the Kilburn Sisters of the Church of England, led by Sister Kate, came to Perth in 1901 with 22 English orphans in response to an earlier plea by Bishop Parry. They came to establish a school (Perth College) and more importantly a home for infant waifs who would otherwise be abandoned to the often neglectful care of baby farms. The Waifs Home at Parkerville in the hills out of Perth began in 1903 in a leaky barn. By 1905 there were 45 children, mainly homeless babies. The generosity of Walter Padbury had provided a new stone nursery, 120 acres of land, an orchard and a horse and carriage. The children lived in separate cottages each in the care of a house mother to give the children a sense of family. During her years as the mainstay of the Parkerville Children's Home Sister Kate was "mother" to over 800 boys and girls. When the management committee thought the time had come for her to retire in 1933, at the age of 72, Sister Kate set up a home in the city for part-Aboriginal children, called simply "Sister Kate's", where she provided cottage homes and schooling for over 100 children. She worked there herself for another 13 years until just before her death in 1949. One of her charges had already given her an epitaph "She's the mother of all those who have no mother".

's
1933



1934

HORRIE MILLER

Aviator

Captain Horrie Miller was born in Victoria in 1893; from the time he saw Houdini fly in Melbourne in 1910, his life revolved around flying. He learnt to fly in England, in “an old box-kite machine” while employed at the Sopwith works and served in the Australian Flying Corps during the 1914-18 War. Then during the 1920s he embarked on a succession of flying enterprises - charter flights, joyrides, stunt-flying, aerial photography, among them. He combined flying and engineering expertise with finance from confectionary “king” Sir Macpherson Robertson to create MacRobertson Miller Airlines, based in South Australia. Its first plane was a DTT-61 called “Old Gold” and its first cargo a load of chocolates. Two years later Miller won the WA Centenary Sydney to Perth Air-Race, in its time the longest point to point air race in the world. In 1934 he successfully tendered for the Government Air-Mail service, Perth via the North-West to Daly Waters in the Northern Territory, displacing Brearley’s service. Horrie Miller built hangars, organised the MMA branch offices, surveyed the route and piloted the planes. In December 1934, the first Empire air-mail left Perth to link up with the new Empire service out of Daly Waters. MMA built up a network of North-West routes with Miller based in Broome. He married writer Mary Durack, a grand-daughter of Kimberley pioneer Patrick Durack. MMA and Horrie Miller served the Kimberleys and North-West until the 1960s when MMA was taken over by Ansett Transport Industries.

1935

HENRY FREWEN LE FANU

Anglican Primate

Henry Frewen Le Fanu was elected Archbishop of the Anglican Province of WA on Archbishop Riley's death in 1929 and in 1935 he was elected Primate of Australia, the first primate not to come from the see of Sydney. Riley had not seen Australia before his arrival as bishop in 1895; Le Fanu was also an English-trained priest but he had been 24 years in the Church in Queensland, and a bishop there since 1915. Unlike Riley who had been the choice of three English bishops, he had been chosen largely by a local committee of clergy and laymen (including Canon Collick and Sir Talbot Hobbs). His election as archbishop and primate showed both the strength of the bonds between the British and Australian Church and of the Australian Church's growing sense of nationalism. As Archbishop, his work as a generous churchman and efficient administrator, was dominated by the Church's financial problems, particularly in the new Wheatbelt parishes which were hard hit by the Depression. He was a churchman of wide sympathies, tolerant of the full breadth of elements in the Church and involved in the dominant social issues of his time to the point of being criticised as too radical. As Primate, he saw his election as an expression and strengthening of the unity of the Church in Australia. He worked for the development of a national church with its own constitution, though it was not to be achieved in his lifetime. He died in 1946.

1935



1936

EILEEN JOYCE

Pianist

Until recently, the Sisters of the local convent school were the chief teachers of instrumental music in many WA country towns. Eileen Joyce was one of their pupils; she learned the piano at St Joseph's Convent, Boulder. Her family had come to Western Australia from Tasmania to try farming at Kununoppin and then to the Goldfields where Eileen's father worked on the Horseshoe Mine. She was recognised as an extraordinarily gifted child and the Goldfields people raised enough money to send her to Perth to study at Loreto Convent. When there was nothing more she could learn in Perth, she toured country towns to raise money to make overseas study possible. In 1928, at the age of fifteen, she left for Leipzig, and returned to WA in 1936 as an accomplished performer to give a series of concerts for the ABC. She went on to become one of the most celebrated pianists in the world, renowned for her "singular, crystal, joyous interpretation of piano works". She returned to WA in 1979 to accept an honorary doctorate of music from the University of Western Australia and to pay her debt to the Western Australians who had launched her career, with several commemorative gifts, in particular the gift of funds for music scholarships for talented young pianists.

1937

ALFRED JACOBS

Country Doctor

Dr Alfred Jacobs, a graduate of Melbourne University, was a doctor in Harvey when the Depression of the 1930s was at its height with a third of the workforce out of work. His practice was augmented by 3,500 sustenance workers and families, living in tent camps out of town; some of them were migrant families from South West group settlements. The men worked a couple of days a week on the Harvey irrigation scheme and were paid a minimal sustenance wage as an alternative to complete unemployment. Dr Jacobs struggled against an unsympathetic Medical Department and city government to give the camp dwellers adequate medical care and some sense of purpose, organising first-aid classes and other lectures. Convinced that an economic system that allowed such human wastage must be changed, he worked for the Douglas Credit Movement and then, as war approached, for left-wing anti-fascist organisations. In 1940 he moved his practice to Narrogin where he again ran ambulance classes, training over 1000 students. He remained there as a working doctor until his death in 1976, mourned especially by the Aborigines of the district to whom he was a generous friend and champion.

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1938

DECIMA NORMAN

Champion Athlete

Decima Norman, born in WA, began her sporting career as a student at Perth College and became one of the greatest all-round athletes, male or female, in the world, though a diminutive 157cm. She was unable to compete in the 1936 Olympics because she was not a member of an internationally recognised athletics organisation so she and her coach founded the WA Women's Athletics Association in 1937. However she again missed out on competing at an Olympiad because of the war. In 1937 she put Western Australia second to New South Wales in competition for the Mulcahy Shield in the Australian championships. Her great triumph came at the Sydney Empire Games in 1938 where, at the age of 30, she amazed the crowds by winning a record five gold medals. She won the 100yds in 11.1secs, 220yds in 24.5secs, the long jump at 19'1/4" and was a member of 2 winning relay teams. She was, moreover, a championship hurdler and an international class hockey player as well as skilled in shot-put, javelin and basketball.

1939

DAVID ISAAC FREEDMAN

Rabbi

Rabbi Freedman was the Perth Jewish community's first rabbi, and this was his first and only appointment. He arrived in 1892, a young man of only 22, Hungarian born but educated in England at London University and the Jews' College. Jewish communal life had developed only slowly in WA and it was not until the 1890s that the communities in Perth, Fremantle and the Goldfields really began to formalise their congregations, partly spurred by a visit in 1892 from Adelaide of the Rev A T Boas, the father of architect Harold Boas. In 1896 a Hebrew School was started and a year later the Perth Synagogue was consecrated. At the turn of the century there were some 1200 Jews in WA, with the Perth congregation as their focus. Rabbi Freedman was in every way their teacher; he was a brilliant preacher, headmaster of the Hebrew School, president of the WA Zionist Association, and founder of Jewish literary, dramatic, debating and sporting societies - a complete commitment that soon made him beloved and respected. He also embodied his people's commitment to Western Australia in his involvement in community organisations. He was a Chaplain-Major in the A.I.F., a leading member of the R.S.L., a prominent Freemason, and active executive member of the Children's Protection Society, Infant Health Association, the Perth Symphony Orchestra and numerous other voluntary organisations and a University Senator. He died in 1939, honoured by his gentile friends and the community at large, in stark contrast to the fate of his people in Europe.

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1940

F/O.R.L. GLYDE, D.F.C.

Battle of Britain Ace

Richard Glyde was a young West Australian who joined the R.A.F. in 1937, via Guildford Grammar and Point Cook, when all the Dominions increased their contributions of pilots to the British re-armament of the late thirties. His flying career was an eventful and courageous one. From the outbreak of war, his Squadron of Hurricanes fought in France; he and two comrades made a forced landing in Belgium and were interned. They escaped by scaling the prison walls to rejoin their squadron and take part in the Battle of Britain. By June 1940, Glyde had won the Distinguished Flying Cross for "great dash and offensive spirit" in operations in which he brought down 4 planes. At the height of the Battle of Britain, 13th August 1940, Glyde's squadron took part in the defence against a series of Luftwaffe raids totalling 260 planes on a front of 65km. His plane crashed over Exeter and he was killed, a young man of 26. At home, Professor Murdoch was writing in *The West Australian*: Britain pins her hopes of victory on a number of obscure persons about whom she knows nothing - except that they can be trusted living or dying, to do their duty".

1941

WING COMMANDER H.I.

EDWARDS, V.C.

War Hero

Born at Fremantle in 1914 to a Welsh migrant family, Hughie Edwards was a clerk until 1935 when he joined the R.A.A.F. In 1936 he was transferred to the R.A.F. By May 1941 he was in command of 105 Squadron of Blenheim light bombers. He won a Distinguished Flying Cross for his part in a low-level raid on enemy shipping, and in July 1941 won the Victoria Cross for his leadership of a daring daylight bombing raid over Bremen. He took his squadron in at little more than 50 feet through strong defences. This same low-level daylight raid was used again in December 1942 when Edwards led a raid of 94 bombers on the enemy-controlled Philips radio factory in Holland. The D.S.O. he won here made him the first airman of the Second World War to win the V.C., D.S.O. and D.F.C. From February 1943 Edwards was the Commanding Officer at the Binbrook bomber base and led many night bombing raids of 460 Squadron. At the end of 1944, now group captain, he went to Ceylon and held a succession of South-East Asian positions. After the end of the war he continued his career in the R.A.F., rising to air commodore, and in 1962 was appointed Governor of WA but he resigned after a brief term due to illness.

1941's

1942

PRIVATE A.S. GURNEY, V.C.

War Hero

Arthur Gurney was born at Day Dawn on the Murchison Goldfields in 1908. He grew up in Victoria Park and was a employee of the Perth Electricity & Gas Depot and a keen, successful competitive cyclist when he enlisted. He was posted to the 2/48th Australian Infantry Battalion, A.I.F. as part of the Tobruk garrison and then his unit took part in important engagements before the decisive battle of El Alamein. He won his V.C. in July 1942 at Tel el Eisa. His company was under intense machine-gun fire, all the officers were dead or wounded. Private Gurney single-handedly bayonet charged three enemy machine-gun posts and silenced them before being killed himself by hand grenades. He was buried in the War Cemetery at El Alamein. The fighting at Tel el Eisa had weakened Rommel's hold and paved the way for his defeat at El Alamein.

1943

DOROTHY TANGNEY

Senator

Dorothy Tangney grew up as one of a large family in the mill towns of the South-West and in working class Fremantle, attending St Joseph's Primary School. A precocious pupil, she matriculated at 15 years and decided to become a teacher. Her work as monitor and teacher in Fremantle brought her amongst real poverty and work insecurity and turned her towards a political career. A lively and generous person, during the 1930s while school-teaching, she was also energetically involved in the Guild of Undergraduates, the Parents & Citizens Association, and the A.L.P. Two attempts at entering State Parliament failed but in 1943 she became the first woman senator in Australia, holding the seat until her retirement in 1969, still the only female Labor member in the Australian Parliament. She was a member of a number of Senate committees, and a member of the executive of federal caucus and of the federal executive of the Australian Labor Party. In the year of her retirement she was created Dame Commander of the British Empire, the first West Australian born woman honoured in that way.

1943's

1944

***LIEUT-CDR LEON U.
GOLDSWORTHY, G.C.***

War Hero

Leon Goldsworthy was born in NSW in 1909 and educated as a mining engineer in South Australia. He was working in WA when war broke out and tried to join the Royal Australian Navy. He was too small, but in early 1941 he was appointed to the R.A.N.V.R. and became a member of the Rendering Mines Safe Section of H.M.S. Vernon; his civilian career had given him a good grounding in bomb mechanisms. He won the George Medal, the George Cross and Distinguished Service Cross, and was mentioned in dispatches for a series of bomb disposal successes, including the defusing of bombs underwater, involving 'great courage and devotion to duty'. In 1944 he did a tour of duty in the South Pacific theatre. Goldsworthy was Australia's most highly decorated naval officer of the war. Back in civilian life he became factory manager of an electric sign business in Perth.

1945

JOHN CURTIN

Prime Minister

John Curtin was deeply involved from youth in the Labor movement in Victoria where he was born in 1885. He had been a member of the Socialist Party of Victoria, a labor journalist, trade union secretary and secretary of the anti-conscription campaign in Victoria before coming to Western Australia in 1917 as editor of the *Westralian Worker*. He made the *Worker* a strongly anti-militarist, anti-capitalist paper in the early twenties; later he worked closely with Philip Collier in restoring party unity. Between 1928 and 1931 he was an undistinguished back-bencher in Federal Parliament, as the member for Fremantle. Defeated in the 1931 elections he worked as a part-time journalist to 1934, and conquered the dependence on alcohol that marred his first Canberra years. In 1934 he was again M.H.R. for Fremantle and by October 1935 the Labor Party's Parliamentary Leader. First and foremost he saw his task as the restoration of party unity destroyed by the stresses of the Depression. This he did. After the collapse of the Menzies and Fadden governments in 1941 he became Prime Minister. As war-time leader he was decisive and inspiring, making decisions, like the introduction of overseas conscription, that cost him much as a Labor man. He asserted the defence needs of Australia in the Pacific war against the demands of the war in Europe and drew Australia closer to the United States. In the words of his biographer: "Curtin was primarily and basically responsible for the leadership that united and inspired Australia . . ."

He died in office just weeks before the end of the war.

's
1945



1946 *AGNES WALSH*

Matron K.E.M.H.

Agnes Walsh was matron of the King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women from 1922 to 1954. Born in NSW in 1886, she had turned to nursing as a young widow. Already trained in midwifery she came to WA in 1916 the year of the opening, after a long campaign by women's organisations, of K.E.M.H. In that year, as a measure of the urgent need for the hospital, 37 women died in WA in childbirth, and 265 babies died within a month of birth. Agnes Walsh completed her general training at Perth Public Hospital and then joined the K.E.M.H. staff in 1920. In 1922 she was appointed matron. The hospital was housed in a forbidding, dingy and inadequate stone building, formerly a school for delinquents. However, a grant from the Red Cross allowed the immediate building of a new ward, labour ward and nurses' quarters. Many women came to the hospital having had no professional ante-natal care at all. One of Matron Walsh's chief concerns was the development of this ante-natal care, and of an ante-natal ward (opened in 1926) which had immediate impact on maternal and infant mortality. She worked closely here with Dr Roberta Jull and members of the Hospital Advisory Board. In 1932 the Centenary Ward was opened, extending the Hospital's work to gynaecological cases. The development of K.E.M.H., with its rigorously high standard of nursing, up to date technology and methods, was very much her achievement. Matron Walsh also twice represented Australia at International Congresses of Nursing and was a president of the Australian College of Nursing.

1947

WALTER MURDOCH

Essayist

Walter Murdoch's family migrated to Victoria from Scotland in 1884 when he was 10 years old. As a young man Murdoch worked first as a school teacher then as a lecturer in English at Melbourne University while making a name for himself as a literary journalist, writing for the Argus as 'Elzevir'. From 1913 to 1939 he was the foundation professor of English at the University of Western Australia. He was not a scholar, rather an enthusiast for the great works of English literature and for clear English free of cant. During these years he became a West Australian institution, the resident sage, writing regularly in The West Australian, broadcasting and involving himself in community organisations like the League of Nations Union and the Social Credit Movement and in public controversies over freedom of speech and the like, all part of what he called 'the pink man's burden'. He gained a devoted Australia-wide audience through the Argus column and the publication in book form of his newspaper essays, especially "Speaking Personally" (1930). His essays were wry, humanistic, commonsensical, debunking models of clear, witty English. Between the end of the Second World War and 1964 he wrote a weekly syndicated column of "Answers" which Murdoch offered as the opinions of "a very ordinary stay-at-home Australian who has read a little, thought a little, but whose ignorance is varied and extensive". He was knighted in 1964; and in 1970 shortly before his death, WA's second university was named in his honour.

1947's

1948

JOHN WINTER

Olympic High Jump Champion

John Winter was the first West Australian to win an Olympic gold medal. Born in Victoria Park, he won the open title at the Associated Public Schools sports in 1940 as a boy of 15 with a high jump of 6'7/8". After the war, he was coached by Perth Modern School sportsmaster Jerry Haire to achieve 5 WA championships and 3 Australian championships. His highest leap was 6'7 1/4" an Australian record, though he won his gold medal at the London Olympics of 1948 with a first leap of 6'6". The jump injured his back but none of the other competitors came near to that height. There were three other Western Australians (all Subiaco residents at the time) in that 1948 Olympics team - athletes Shirley Strickland and Charlie Green, and swimmer Garrick Agnew. John Winter retired from competition in 1950 and involved himself in coaching.

1949

FLORENCE CARDELL OLIVER

Cabinet Minister

Florence Cardell Oliver continued the string of parliamentary “firsts” for Western Australian women when she became in 1949 the first woman cabinet minister in Australia. Born in Victoria, she married an English doctor and shared the work of his East End practice. Then when they moved to Albany she began, in 1916, the Albany branch of the Women’s Service Guild with which she maintained close links. In 1936 she was elected to State Parliament on her second attempt, as the Nationalist member for Subiaco and devoted herself to the welfare schemes for which women’s groups were working, especially free milk for school children. She was prepared to speak out on issues that concerned her; she was for instance the only member of WA Parliament to oppose the export of iron-ore to Japan in the pre-war years. During the last years of the Depression she used her parliamentary salary to aid needy constituents. After a couple of years as an Honorary Minister 1947-49, Florence Cardell Oliver was appointed Minister for Health and for Supply and Shipping, with full cabinet rank. In 1951 she was created Dame Commander of the British Empire and retired from the Subiaco seat in 1956, dying in England in 1965.

1949's



1950

F.E. CHAMBERLAIN

Trade Union Leader

F.E. (Joe) Chamberlain was born in 1900 to a large London family and he left school early to contribute to the family income. Caught in post-war unemployment, Chamberlain responded to the WA Government's inducements and came to WA in 1923 as a sponsored migrant. He worked clearing wheat-belt land, on road and railway construction jobs and then tried (unsuccessfully) a Group Settlement dairy farm. He had joined the Australian Workers Union while a labourer and now he became active in the Australian Labor Party. Back in Perth from 1933 he worked as a labourer, watchman, and tram conductor and driver, and straight away became an active member of the Government Tramways, Motor Omnibus and River Ferries Union of Employees. By 1942 he was president and by 1944, as secretary the Union's only full-time official. Though elected with the support of militants, he preferred negotiation to strike and successfully negotiated new awards for his members. In 1949 Chamberlain was elected to the General Secretaryship of the ALP and secretary of the Trade Unions' Industrial Council. The WA Labor Party still combined its political and industrial wings until 1962, hence the secretaryship was as much an industrial position as a party one. In 1950 Chamberlain was elected delegate to the interstate executive of the Australian Council of Trade Unions. Between 1955 and 1961, during the D.L.P. split he was Federal President of the A.L.P. He retired in 1974. Chamberlain always saw the trade unions as the core of the Labor Movement and democratic socialism as its essential doctrine.

1951

RUSSELL DUMAS

Public Servant

Russell Dumas was born and educated as an engineer in South Australia. He served in the 1st A.I.F. and after the war was an engineer for the River Murray Works 1919-25. Then he came to WA as resident engineer for the Hills Water Supply. The Comprehensive Water Supply Scheme which supplied water to the agricultural districts and extended South-West irrigation schemes was carried out under his direction. In particular he was responsible for the design and construction of Canning Dam and supervised the districts including the Wellington Dam. This was work in the tradition of O'Connor. From 1942-53 he was Director of Works and Buildings and then Co-ordinator of Works and Industries. During this time his department built power stations at South Fremantle and Collie, built handling facilities for wheat at North Fremantle, numerous suburban and country schools, and harbour development work at Bunbury, Fremantle and Albany. A keen advocate of northern development and industrial expansion his vision and energy had great impact on the scope of government policy. He and Works Minister David Brand worked together closely in negotiation with the Anglo-Iranian Oil Co in 1951 to secure an oil refinery for WA at Kwinana. This was effectively the prelude to the later industrial boom. In retirement, he served as a member of the important Industries Advisory Council. He was created K.B.E. in 1964 and died in 1975 at the age of 88.

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1952

PROFESSOR HAROLD BAILEY

Scholar

Harold Bailey taught himself Latin and Greek and ancient oriental languages while working on the family farm in Western Australia. On the basis of these studies he enrolled at the University of WA in 1922. Professor George Wood soon recognised that “Bailey’s scholarship is . . . far ahead of anything I have ever had here”. He was awarded the first Hackett Studentship to Oxford to continue his study of Sanskrit and other ancient languages. He pursued his studies with absolute single-mindedness to become a philologist of world renown and a scholar in the purest sense. His particular field of interest was Khotanese, a language related to Persian and Sanskrit. By 1938, at the age of 39, he was Professor of Sanskrit at Cambridge. In 1960 he was knighted and in 1963 his first university acknowledged him as its most distinguished scholar, and made him an honorary Doctor of Letters at its jubilee graduation ceremony.

1953

PROFESSOR FRED ALEXANDER

Cultural leader

Fred Alexander, a graduate of the Universities of Melbourne and Oxford, was appointed to the Department of Economics and History at the University of WA in 1924, becoming Lecturer in Charge of the separate History Department in 1931, Associate Professor in 1936 and Professor from 1948 to his retirement in 1966. From his arrival in Perth, he was actively involved in adult education which ran on a shoe-string budget during the 1920s and 30s. His own interest was in current affairs and he travelled to the country often to lecture and lead discussions. During the 1939-45 War he was a major in charge of army education in WA and arranged music and drama to entertain and educate the troops waiting for the Japanese invasion. He was at the same time (1941-54) Director of Adult Education and it was out of the annual Adult Education Summer Schools and his army experience that the Festival of Perth grew. He was chairman of the original committee and organised the 1955 and 1954 festivals to provide country Summer School participants with films, concerts and drama. It was a small affair located entirely on the University campus. The festival has since grown into over a month of large-scale international standard performances in all the arts and venues all over the city, from street theatre, to jazz singers, to renowned symphony orchestras. Professor Alexander was also chairman of the Library Board from its foundation in 1952, contributing to the development of State-wide public lending libraries. He died in 1996.

1953

1954

DOROTHY FLEMING

Children's Broadcaster

Dorothy Fleming was a South Australian, born in 1914. She was educated in Perth, in the University's new premises at Crawley in the early 1930s. She worked as a teacher to 1938 then an overseas scholarship enabled her to develop her interest in music and movement after which she returned to the WA Education Department as an adviser. Then she worked with Margaret Graham in setting up the pioneering Kindergarten-of-the-Air. This was the beginning of a life-long career in children's broadcasting; beginning with a weekly program "All Join In", which became the three times weekly nationally broadcast "Let's Join In" in 1954. They were broadcast live, and Dorothy Fleming wrote the scripts, devised the activities, chose the music as well as presenting the programs on air. She retired in 1975 with over 5000 programs to her credit and an entire generation Australia-wide that knew and loved her voice and whose knowledge of legend, music, dance and games had been enriched by her work.

1955

ERIC SMART

Wheatfarmer

Eric Smart came to WA in 1935 as a young man of 26 with \$400 in his pocket, in answer to an advertisement for a share farmer in Watheroo. He worked enormously hard and made a success of this venture, expanding his plant and share farms and buying his own land in sand-plain country traditionally regarded as “waste-land”. In 1946 he bought Erregulla Springs, Mingenew, which included 5 1/2 hectares of virgin “wasteland” at four shillings an acre. The sand-plain country was flat with only light scrub and therefore easy to clear and plough and the clay sub-soil held the moisture in the sand. With modern machinery to cover the vast farm areas, using superphosphate, WA blue lupins and subterranean clovers, and installing share farmers as he had begun in farming, Smart built his properties up during the 1950s to create a world record in 1966 for the biggest grain and wheat crops grown on one man’s land. Erregulla Springs was at the same time WA’s biggest sheep property with 59,000 sheep and lambs. Smart was an energetic missionary for lightland farming throughout Australia, sponsoring field days and publishing accounts of his own successes, to urge young men to tackle light land farming as he had done, so they would “have a stake in the world”. He was knighted in 1966 and died in 1973.

1955's



1956

SHIRLEY STRICKLAND

Olympic Track Champion

Because of the 1939-45 War, Shirley Strickland began her national and international athletics career late. Born in 1925, the daughter of wheat-belt pioneers, she was chosen in the 1948 Australian Olympic team. In London she won a silver and 2 bronze medals. The 80m hurdles became her special event, but in sprint events too she was a star, setting a world record of 11.3secs for the 100m in Warsaw in 1955. Her competitive career was a long one for an athlete in the intense events at which she excelled, from 1948 to her last state competition in 1960. She achieved her triumphs in the days before scientific coaching, and after the birth of her first child and a decline in her performance she worked with absolute dedication to gain a place in Australian team to the Warsaw Festival of Sports at which she set a world record. Listing only her gold medals, Shirley Strickland won 3 gold medals at 1950 Auckland Empire Games (80 m hurdles, 4 x 100yds relay, 660yds medley relay), 4 gold medals (80m hurdles, 100yds, 220yds, 200m) at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics, and at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics 2 gold medals for the 80m hurdles and 4 x 100m relay. After her retirement from competition in 1960 she devoted much time and energy to coaching and sporting administration, and involved herself in politics, as an independent conservationist candidate in State elections and as a minority party senate candidate. She was a member of the Community Recreation Council and the Board of the National Trust. She died in 2004.

1957

F.J. CLARK

Surgeon

Frederick Clark was born in Melbourne and took his medical degree at Melbourne University. He came to Perth in 1922 and became the Senior General Surgeon at Fremantle and Royal Perth Hospitals. He and neurosurgeon J P Ainslie pioneered thoracic and neuro-surgery in Western Australia. During the 1939-45 War, as Lieutenant-Colonel, he was the senior surgeon of the 2/7th Australian General Hospital in the Middle East. He invented, equipped, staffed and ran a mobile field operating unit for use just behind the front line. Naturally left handed, he taught himself to use his right hand equally well, so he could work quickly in emergency situations with unsophisticated equipment. When he returned to private practice in 1944, he re-established himself as WA's leading chest surgeon. International and local colleagues who watched him operate counted him as one of the great surgeons of the world. He continued work to the age of 70 and died in 1970 aged 72 with the tribute from his profession that "it was largely due to his skills and enthusiasm that thoracic and cardiac surgery holds it prominent place in Perth today".

1957's



1958

HERB ELLIOTT

World Champion Runner

In his athletics career Herb Elliott broke the 4 minute mile seventeen times and was never defeated over the mile or 1500 metres as a senior runner. At the centre of the sub-4 minute milers, he turned the middle distance races into the glamour events of international athletics. Born in WA in 1938 he began his sporting career at Aquinas College in the mid-50s, competing in rowing, hockey and swimming as well as athletics. In 1958, coached by ruthless and innovative Percy Cerutti and sustained by his own fierce competitiveness, he won 2 gold medals at the Cardiff Commonwealth Games for the mile and half mile and set new mile and 1500m records in Ireland and Sweden. The whole of Western Australia identified with his successes and shared his agonising decision in that year to remain an amateur. At the Rome Olympics in 1960 he set a new world 1500m record of 3min35.6sec, pushing himself to the limit. In his own words “trying to reach the tape was like one of those nightmares in which you run frantically from a terror behind you”. He retired from competition in 1962 to take up a business career. He has since served as a member of the Federal Sport Advisory Council, as an ABC Commissioner, as Chairman of the Australia Day Committee and as an organiser in the Catholic Church’s Worldwide Marriage Encounter Movement.

1959

ROLF HARRIS

Entertainer

Rolf Harris is the “boy from Bassendean”, born in 1930 and educated at Perth Modern School. Apart from being the Junior Australian backstroke champion in 1946 his early interest was in painting - he had a painting hung in the Archibald Prize and won the Claude Hotchin prize in 1950. In 1952 he gave up school teaching to try his luck as an entertainer in England, and with a uniquely Australian style combined singing and drawing to become a star of BBC Children’s television. At the end of the fifties he returned to Perth as an established star to work in children’s television for TVW Channel 7. His adult show “Relax with Rolf” was a one-man show in every sense; he was script and music writer as well as performer. At the same time he wrote and recorded “Tie Me Kangaroo Down Sport”, with wobble board accompaniment, which was a runaway international success. His career since then has included extensive night-club performing, a weekly BBC variety show drawing fourteen million viewers, concerts at Carnegie Hall and Sydney Opera House, and a film series on conservation themes. In 1979 he came home to Perth to a hero’s welcome as host to the WAY ’79 concert inaugurating WA’s 150th Anniversary. His huge international and home success has been anchored in the relaxed Australian quality of his personality.

1959's



1960

H.C. COOMBS

Banker

Herbert (Nugget) Coombs was born in Kalamunda in 1906 and educated at Perth Modern School. He trained as a teacher at Claremont Teachers' College and then, after completing a degree at the University of WA by correspondence, he went to the London School of Economics in 1932 with the help of a Hackett scholarship. It was the height of the Depression and Coombs was profoundly influenced both by the poverty and economic inequality around him, and by the theories of economist J M Keynes. On return to Australia in 1935 he held a succession of positions in the Commonwealth Bank and Treasury, and in 1943 Prime Minister Curtin appointed him Director-General of Post-War Reconstruction. This work gave him an opportunity to put his ideals, of social betterment through positive government action, into practice. In 1949 the Chifley Labor Government made him Governor of the Commonwealth Bank and he was reappointed by successive governments becoming in 1960 the first Governor of the Reserve Bank. He sought again to implement his own philosophy: "Neither withdrawal nor revolution are for me. There remains therefore only reform - the creation of new institutions, the recasting of those already existing and the revitalisation of the moral and social imperatives which lend them vigour". After his retirement from the Reserve Bank in 1968 he developed his concern for Aboriginal and environmental issues as Chairman of the Australian Council for Aboriginal Affairs and Chairman of the Australian Conservation Foundation.

1961

LANG HANCOCK

Mining Entrepreneur

Langley George Hancock, born in Perth in 1909, a descendant of North-West pioneers and himself a substantial pastoralist (Mulga Downs and Hamersley Stations), was first involved in mining with the development of Wittenoom blue asbestos with his partner Peter Wright. Then in 1952 he discovered the huge Hamersley iron-ore deposits in the Pilbara, more or less by accident when low cloud forced his light plane into the gorges. Aerial prospecting became his standard tool. The deposits could not be developed until after 1960 when the Australian Government lifted the embargo on the export of iron ore imposed in 1938 when iron ore reserves were believed to be small. Hancock lobbied hard to interest overseas capital in the development of the ore and brought together Kaiser Steel, Rio Tinto and Consolidated Zinc into Hamersley Iron. The project, costing many millions of dollars, was officially opened in 1966. With other iron ore projects like Mount Newman Iron Ore, it has transformed the West Australian economy and the North West with modern towns, new port and railway facilities. Lang Hancock, a millionaire, was an intensely controversial figure with his espousal of unrestrained capitalism, nuclear development in WA, the secession of WA from the Commonwealth and colourful personal life.

1961's

1962

BOB MARSHALL

World Billiards Champion

Both Bob Marshall, world amateur billiards champion and Walter Lindrum, world professional champion, were born in the Eastern Goldfields. Marshall was born in Kalgoorlie in 1910 and grew up in Bayswater from the age of 11. He learned to play billiards in the billiards room behind his father's barber's shop, and then at the Amateur Sports Club and the Prince of Wales Billiard Room. The WA Amateur Billiards Association was formed in 1936 to enable Marshall to compete in championships and that year he won the Australian and Empire titles. The Empire title was then effectively the world title and he was world champion three more times (1938, 1951, 1962) and Australian amateur champion a total of fifteen times. When he retired he held all world amateur billiards records. He retired for a time from 1963, and from 1965-67 was the Liberal M.L.A. for Maylands. In 1969 he won his last Australian championship and in 1970 the WA championship. His style was "top of the table", modelled on the Lindrum game, and he played with cool uncanny skill and with an abstemious, hard-working personal style, because he wanted, as he said, "to dispel the belief that billiards and snooker were played mostly by no-hopers".

1963

SIR LANCE BRISBANE

Industrialist

Hugh Lance Brisbane was born in Fitzroy, Victoria, in 1893. After education at Fremantle Boys School and Perth Technical College he began his career as a draftsman with Wunderlichs. Then after war service he rejoined them as co-manager 1919-29 when he branched out on his own, making tiles in Belmont, as H.L. Brisbane Ltd. In 1938 the companies merged, with Brisbane as managing director and later chairman. Between 1939-43 he was president of the WA Chamber of Manufacturers. As a successful industrialist with wide experience in industry and commerce, Brisbane was appointed the first chairman of the Industries Advisory Council in 1959, on which Russell Dumas also served. It was an honorary but demanding task. Under his quiet and knowledgeable leadership the Council played an important role in attracting new industries and investment to WA. He was knighted for this work in 1961 and retired in 1963, but Brisbane remained active in charitable organisations as president of the WA Council of the National Trust, chairman of the WA Division of the National Heart Foundation and of the Asthma Foundation until his death in 1966.

1963's



1964

PROFESSOR ERIC UNDERWOOD

Agricultural Scientist

Professor Eric Underwood was born in London in 1905 but grew up in Western Australia and was educated at Perth Modern School and the University of WA after which he completed a doctorate in animal nutrition at Cambridge on a Hackett Scholarship. On his return to WA he worked as a Research Officer with the Department of Agriculture. His work on the nutritional importance of trace elements published as "Trace Elements in Human and Animal Nutrition" was pioneering research which had great practical importance to West Australian farmers, and world-wide. He played an important role in research in other animal husbandry problems especially sheep infertility on subterranean pastures. From 1946 to retirement in 1970, Professor Underwood was Hackett Professor of Agriculture and Director of the Institute of Agriculture at the University of WA where he fostered agricultural research in co-operation with industry and the farming community. At the same time, he was an internationally respected adviser on animal nutrition, a member of F.A.O. & W.H.O. expert panels, a member of C.S.I.R.O. executive, and a Kelvin medalist and Fellow of the Royal Society. These many honours pay tribute to his contribution to world agricultural practice and scientific research.

1965

SIR CHARLES COURT

Premier and Minister for Industrial Development

Charles Court as Minister for Industrial Development in the Brand Government from 1959 to 1971 promoted and guided the mining and industrial boom of 1960s. He was born in England in 1911 but his family came to Perth while he was still an infant. By 1933 he was a chartered accountant and in 1938 a foundation partner in a city accounting practice. During the war he rose from private to Lieutenant-Colonel in the A.I.F. In 1953 he was elected Liberal M.L.A. for Nedlands, holding the seat for 18 years. As well as being Minister for Industrial Development and the North-West 1959-71, Charles Court was also Minister for Railways 1959-67 and Transport 1965-66. More than anyone else, he articulated at home and overseas the confidence and excitement that was generated by the new industrial expansion - Pilbara iron-ore, Kambalda nickel, standard gauge rail-link to the East, B.H.P. at Kwinana, bauxite mining and processing, the Ord River Scheme. As Premier between 1974 and 1982 his policies were sometimes challenged by environmentalists though Sir Charles remained committed to what he, as Minister for Industrial Development, described as 'the challenge of progress'.

1960's



1966

SIR DAVID BRAND

Premier

David Brand, as Western Australia's longest serving premier 1959-71, was one of the best examples of his own belief in the efficacy of individual initiative and in WA as a land of opportunity for people willing to work. Born in 1912, in Dongara, he left school at the end of primary school and worked on his parents' Mullewa farm and later, in the mid thirties, as a mine-worker at Boulder. After war service, he became briefly general storekeeper in Dongara before standing successfully for State Parliament as Greenough candidate for the new Liberal Party. In 1950 he became Minister for Works and Water Supply in the McLarty-Watts Government and as such he worked with Russell Dumas to secure the establishment of the Kwinana Oil Refinery and worked in general to promote industrial expansion and new land settlement. In 1957 he was elected party leader and in 1959 became Premier, at the head of a government committed to economic growth through private enterprise. The 1960s were years of unprecedented growth and wealth for WA that would have made any government popular, but Premier Brand added his own personal integrity as a hard-working ordinary man and as a skilful conciliator within the Coalition to the Government's success. When his government was defeated in 1971, he retired from party leadership, and in 1975 from parliament, with the respect and affection of a broad spectrum of West Australians. He died in April 1979.

1967

SIR FREDERICK SAMSON

Mayor of Fremantle

Both Frederick Samson's ancestry and his own civic career, entitled him to his affectionately bestowed title of "Mr Fremantle". Born in Fremantle in 1892, he was a descendent of merchant Lionel Samson. His father and his uncle were both mayors of Fremantle. He did not enter the family business, becoming instead an engineer and surveyor and in the thirties a real estate agent. He first entered the Fremantle City Council in 1936, was elected mayor in 1952. He was responsible for the development of the O'Connor industrial area, which he regarded as his major contribution to Fremantle, but he is best known for his tenacious efforts to save valuable nineteenth century buildings in the city from demolition. With the support of the growing conservation movement, he rescued the old Asylum, the Round House, Fremantle Boys and Princess May Girls Schools, to be transformed into beautiful community activity centres. Fremantle has a special quality derived from these and other buildings and the preservation of this quality has become part of Council policy. 'Sir Fred' retired in 1972 and died in 1974, in a Fremantle that owed much to his determination and good-humoured, friendly leadership.

1967's

1968

ALBERT BARUNGA

Aboriginal Tribal leader

Albert Barunga was a respected member of the Worora Tribe and an Elder of the Mowanjum Community at the Presbyterian mission near Derby. He was deeply involved in the resurgence of Aboriginal pride and in concern for tribal culture in the 1960s and 70s. He accompanied several WA museum expedition into the Kimberleys; for his work the Museum made him an Honorary Associate. He was also associated with the Australian Aboriginal Council of Arts, a brainchild of H C Coombs, and from 1967 until his death in 1977 he was a member of the Northern Division Consultative Committee. He was therefore important both as a tribal leader and as an interpreter of tribal culture and needs to white society. In 1979 an inter-tribal festival of dance at Mowanjum expressed his vision; in his brother's words "He wanted the old culture to come back purely and strongly in a way that brought friendship and harmony between black and white, and all men".

1969

SIR PAUL HASLUCK

Governor General

Paul Hasluck was born in 1905 in Fremantle and was educated at Perth Modern School. In 1923 he became a cadet journalist on The West Australian combining journalism with study at the University during the thirties and with work for the infant Historical Society of Western Australia. He turned his historical interest to good effect in recording the reminiscences of West Australians with pioneer memories and in documenting the plight of the State's Aborigines and part-Aborigines. During the 1939-45 war he was seconded from university teaching to the Department of External Affairs. At the time of his resignation in 1947 he was the head of the Australian Mission to the United Nations. From 1949 to 1969 he was the Liberal Member of the House of Representatives for the seat of Curtin, during which time he was Minister for Territories 1951-63, developing policies of assimilation and citizenship for Northern Territory Aborigines and laying the foundations for Papua New Guinean independence. Later he became Minister for Defence 1963-64 and Minister for External Affairs 1964-69 during the height of the Vietnam War debate. In 1969 he was appointed Governor-General. Both an old-fashioned liberal dedicated to debate and a conservative with a strong sense of place and historical continuity, he had not enjoyed what he called "a politician's creeping manoeuvres", but the vice-regal role suited him well. He returned home to retire in 1974, emerging occasionally to protest against the actions of over-zealous governments.

1969's

1970

R.J. HAWKE

Prime Minister & Trade Union Leader

Bob Hawke was born in South Australia in 1929. When he was ten his father, a Congregational Minister, was called to a church in Perth where the boy was educated at Perth Modern School. The young Robert Hawke then gained Arts and Law degrees from the University of WA and studied at Oxford as the WA Rhodes Scholar for 1952. With his uncle, A.R.G. Hawke, the State A.L.P. leader, Bob Hawke joined the Labor Party in 1947 and in 1958 became the research officer and industrial advocate for the Australian Council of Trade Unions. During his term as advocate, the WA union movement and the huge Australian Workers' Union affiliated with the A.C.T.U., thus making integrated national union strategy a reality. As union advocate, Hawke was seen as a blunt, forceful, tenacious militant, an image he carried over to the presidency of the A.C.T.U. from 1970. Under his leadership, the A.C.T.U. became involved directly in retail trade and in broad national and international issues. Hawke's standing as a mediator grew. At the same time, 1973-78, he was Federal President of the A.L.P. and a member of the Reserve Bank board. He entered federal politics and went on to become the country's Prime Minister from 1983 to 1991.

1971

GRAHAM FARMER

Footballer

Graham (Polly) Farmer grew up at Sister Kate's Home from 1938 at the age of five with her other part-Aboriginal charges. In 1953 he joined East Perth Football Club and worked on his football skills with a dedication uncharacteristic of players at the time. At the same time, football was becoming big business, with official payments to players and elaborate club facilities. In 1956 he won the Tassie Medal and Sandover Medal and played in East Perth's premiership side with his own style of accurate hand-ball and high leaping marks. During his years 1961-67 with Geelong his brilliant hand-pass game worked a minor revolution in Victorian football. In one memorable game, he marked and hand-passed the ball to a team-mate before touching the ground. In 1968 he returned to his home State and captain-coached West Perth to two premierships in 1969 and 1971. By the time he retired at the end of the 1971, he was a football legend; he had played 392 games in senior football and made himself the greatest ruckman in Australian football history. He was also honoured by having a city freeway named after him.

*Sister Kate's
1971*

1972

DENNIS LILLEE

Cricketer

Dennis Lillee was born in Perth in 1949 when Western Australia had just been admitted to the Sheffield Shield cricket competition. (West Australians had to wait until 1970 before Test matches were played at the W.A.C.A. ground). Fast bowler Lillee was a key figure in WA's Shield successes of the late 60s and the 70s. In December 1971 an excited home crowd watched him take eight wickets for 29 runs against a Rest of the World side of batting 'greats'. The next year he was a member with five other West Australians of the 1972 Test side and took 31 wickets, a record for an Australian in England. A back injury relegated him to local cricket in the 1973/74 season but he returned to Test cricket 1974/75 after prolonged struggles to triumph over his injuries. Crowds revelled in his aggressive style, tuned in as it was with the self-confident mood of boom WA. In 1977, Lillee joined the Packer World Series Cricket amidst heated controversy over the financial rewards of the game and its social function, but in 1979 he was again a member of the Australian Test team.

1973

FLORENCE HUMMERSTON

Community Leader

Even in her nineties, Florence Hummerston was deeply involved in the social work to which she devoted her life as a forthright and determined voluntary social worker. Born in Fremantle in 1889 her community work began with the Women's Service Guild in the 1930s. During the 1939-45 War she was founder and State Commander of the Women's Australian National Service, and founder of the Wanslea Children's Home to provide emergency care for children of sick mothers - her most important work in her own estimation. In 1954 she founded the WA Meals on Wheels service in response to the need she encountered while campaigning in City Council elections. She had been the first woman member of the Perth City Council in 1951 and was a dedicated Councillor until 1965. She was president for many years of the League of Home Help and the Tuberculosis Association and an executive member of the Children's Protection Society, the National Fitness Council and the Women's Auxiliary of the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. In her own words "social work was her life".

1973's



1974

JOHN T. TONKIN

Premier

John Tonkin was born in Boulder in 1902 and educated at Goldfields schools. He determined as a boy to enter parliament, working as a school-teacher in the Wheatbelt and the South-West before he won the North Fremantle seat for Labor from the Minister for Education in 1933. He served in four Labor Ministries and held numerous portfolios: Minister for Social Services and Education 1943-47, Minister for Agriculture 1945-47, Deputy Premier and Minister for Works and Water Supplies 1953-59, Premier and Minister for Education, Environmental Protection and Cultural Affairs 1971-72, Premier and Treasurer and Minister for Cultural Affairs 1972-74. He became leader of the party in 1966 on the retirement of Bert Hawke. As Premier, from 1971 to 1974 he was dubbed “Supertonk” and “Honest John” for capacity for work and his tenacious espousal of unpopular causes, notably the anti-fluoridation campaign and his promotion of the Tronado cancer-therapy machine. When he retired in 1976, he was WA’s longest serving parliamentarian, close to 43 years as member for North Fremantle and then Melville, breaking the record set by Collier, the man John Tonkin most admired.

1975

K.J. TOWNSING

Public Servant

Kenneth Townsing was born in Kalgoorlie in 1914, entered the public service as an office boy during the Depression and rose through the ranks to become Public Service Commissioner 1958-59 and Under Treasurer from 1959-75 when he retired. The Under-Treasurership is the most demanding position in the public service; it is the Under-Treasurer who must find the funds to put election promises into practice and must negotiate the intricacies of state-federal financial relations. Townsing was both innovative and thorough. He organised the end in 1968 to WA's financial links to the Commonwealth Grants Commission to ensure that mining royalties stayed in the State. In a broader context, he has been a member of the senate of the University of WA, a Commissioner of the Rural & Industries Bank and a member of the Tertiary Education Commission.

1975's

1976

MICHAEL KAILIS

Fishing Industry Entrepreneur

Western Australia's professional fishermen are predominantly of Italian or Greek descent - Michael Kailis' family came originally from Greece where his grandfather and father were seamen. The young Michael Kailis began as a worker in a rock-lobster processing factory. After university studies he took over a run-down rock-lobster plant at Dongara in 1962. He made changes in the catching and processing, bought his own boats and built a prosperous industry. He also pioneered prawning in the Exmouth Gulf area, building a processing factory and village and expanding into shipbuilding to build trawlers to his own design. In the late 1960s the Kailis fleet moved further afield to operate in the Gulf of Carpentaria and Bass Strait to become Australia's biggest privately-owned fishing enterprise while the Kailis shipyards in Fremantle built trawlers for both Australian and Asian fishing fleets. Michael Kailis has been involved in joint fishing ventures with South East Asian countries and explored the expansion of deep-sea fishing into the Antarctic.

1977

OLIVE ANSTEY

Hospital Matron

Olive Anstey was born in Fremantle in 1920. She graduated in general nursing from Royal Perth Hospital during the World War when nursing was still poorly paid and severely regimented. She later qualified in midwifery, public health nursing and nursing administration. In 1958 she was the first matron of the new Perth Chest Hospital, later the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, an important part of the Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre. She was always active in nursing affairs, committed to both high professional standards in nursing and fair economic and social conditions for nurses. In a wider context, she was deeply involved in the establishment of the Democratic Labor Party in WA. Many innovative programs in nursing practice, education and administration were introduced under her leadership at the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital which is an important teaching hospital and community health centre. She was particularly active in professional nursing organisations and served on numerous nursing education committees. She was president of both the Federal and State Royal Australian Nursing Federation and in 1977 Olive Anstey was elected President of the International Council of Nurses, the first Australian-born nurse to hold the position.

's
1971



1978

SIR GEORGE BEDBROOK

Orthopaedic Surgeon

Sir George Bedbrook was born in Victoria in 1921 and took his medical degree in Melbourne. He had brief post-graduate experience with Sir Ludwig Guttman in England, the refugee from Nazi Germany who had revolutionised the treatment of paraplegics. In the mid-1950s, as a junior orthopaedic surgeon at Royal Perth Hospital, Bedbrook introduced these methods to Australia. The spinal unit at Shenton Park began in two old, inadequate ex-Goldfields wards and grew under his inspiration, as chairman (to 1979) of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, into an internationally renowned Rehabilitation Hospital and Paraplegic - Quadriplegic Centre which has facilities for intensive therapy and supportive care for spinal patients, micro-surgery, and general orthopaedic surgery and rehabilitation therapy. Sir George's own specialisation was spinal surgery. He introduced paraplegic sports to Australia in 1957, was a founder member of the International Medical Society for Paraplegia and the first Australian to be awarded its annual medal. He was also the driving force behind the creation of the Paraplegic-Quadriplegic Association of WA and its hostel and industrial complex. For this work, he was knighted in 1978.

1979

SIR WALLACE KYLE

Governor

Sir Wallace Kyle, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., D.F.C., was born in Kalgoorlie in 1910. Educated at Guildford Grammar, he won a cadetship to Cranwell R.A.F. College, the beginning of a remarkable R.A.F. career. During the 1939-45 War he was a member of Bomber Command taking a leading part in low-level daylight bombing raids. After the war, he served in the Middle East in the Air Ministry, as aide-de-camp to George VI and Queen Elizabeth, as Air Officer Commanding in Malaya during the Emergency, and in 1968 as the commander of the newly formed R.A.F. Strike Command. In 1975, after his retirement he was invited to become Governor by the West Australian Government. The first Governor had been of necessity an autocrat but the devolution of power by 1891 gave the Governor a role as titular head of government with limited and constitutionally-contained powers like the Monarch whose representative he was. Sir Wallace Kyle fitted the role admirably, as a distinguished West Australian and a firm believer in maintaining the strong ties between Australia and Britain. He played a key role in the State's 150th Anniversary celebrations throughout 1979 and retired in 1980.

1979's



1980

RICA ERICKSON A.M.

Botany, Art and History

Born in 1908, Frederica (Rica) Lucy Erickson has worked prodigiously in the varied fields of botany, art and history. Educated at Eastern Goldfields High School she attended Claremont Teachers College, graduating as a teacher in 1928. In 1936 Rica married a farmer, Sydney Erickson, and together they raised a family of four at Bolgart. Combining the duties of motherhood with botanical research, she was able to produce a series of seminal botanical works, *Orchids of the West* (1951), *Trigger Plants* (1958), *Plants of Prey* (1968) and later *Flowers and Plants of WA* (1973) written in collaboration with A. George, N. Marchant and M. Morcombe. Her move to Perth from the country marked the beginning of her invaluable contribution to research in the field of Western Australian history. During the next decade Rica published a series of books on Western Australian history: *The Drummonds of Hawthornden* (1969); *Victoria Plains* (1971); *Her Name is Woman* (1974, jointly with L. Higgins and B. Gibbons); *History of the WA Naturalists Club* (1974); *Old Toodyay and Newcastle* (1974); *The Dempsters* (1978) and *The Misfortunes of Phoebe* (1997). Her most ambitious undertaking, which she conceived to commemorate the State's sesquicentenary, was as general editor of the ten-volume. *Dictionary of Western Australians: 1829-1914* (1979-97). She was recognised in 1987 with the award of member of the Order of Australia.

1981

*SIR FRANCIS BURT A.C. K.C.M.C.
Q.C.*

Law

The Honourable Sir Francis Theodore Page Burt had a distinguished career of service to the community and the law. Born in 1918 he was the youngest of four children and grew up on a sheep station in the Lower Murchison region of Western Australia. His great grandfather was Sir Archibald Burt, the first Chief Justice of Western Australia, and his grandfather was Septimus Burt, the Attorney-General in Sir John Forrest's government. He was educated at Guildford Grammar School and the University of Western Australia, graduating with a law degree with honours in 1940 and winning the prestigious Hackett Scholarship in 1941. He was admitted to the Bar in 1941. His career was interrupted by World War II and he served with both the RAN and RAAF. When he returned to Australia after the war, he resumed a legal career which spanned five decades. He became a Queen's Counsel in 1959, Justice of the Supreme Court from 1969 to 1977 and Chief Justice of Western Australia from 1977 to 1988. In 1987 he received an honorary Doctor of Laws from The University of Western Australia. As Chief Justice, until his retirement in 1988, he was responsible for the administration of the law and justice in the Supreme Court and, by way of appeal and the supervisory jurisdiction of the Court, of other courts and tribunals in WA. He served as Governor of Western Australia from 1990 to 1993. He was created a Knight Commander of St. Michael and St. George in 1977 and a Companion of the Order of Australia in 1988.

is
1981



1982

DR ROBIN WARREN & DR BARRY MARSHALL

Medicine

John Robin Warren was born in 1937 in Adelaide and was educated at St Peter's College and the University of Adelaide, graduating in 1961. He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia in 1967 and was a pathologist at Royal Perth Hospital from 1968 until he retired in 1998.

Barry James Marshall was born in 1951 in Kalgoorlie, was educated at Marist Brothers College, Churchlands, and graduated from the University of Western Australia in 1974. He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in 1983 and a Fellow of the American College of Gastroenterology in 1988. While undertaking routine pathology work in 1978, Dr Robin Warren first observed the bacteria now known as *Helicobacter pylori* in the biopsy specimens of patients with gastritis. Previously it was believed that stress, smoking, irregular meals and alcohol played roles in the formation of ulcers.

In 1982, when Dr Barry Marshall was a resident in internal medicine at Royal Perth Hospital, he undertook six months clinical research with Warren. The two men discovered that peptic ulcers could be caused by the bacteria *H.pylori*, leading them to believe it might be possible to cure ulcers by killing the underlying gastric infection. Marshall went on to develop a drug that treats this bacterial infection using a combination of bismuth and antibiotics.

1983

***WILLIAM HAROLD CLOUGH A.O.
O.B.E.***

Engineering - Commerce

William Harold Clough has had a lifelong association with the building and construction industry in Western Australia. After matriculating from Scotch College, he attended the University of Western Australia graduating with first class honours in engineering in 1947. He was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to the University of California, Berkeley, where he gained a Master of Science in 1953. Returning to Perth in 1954 he joined the building company founded by his father, proceeding to transform it into a company that was to gain an international reputation for engineering excellence and for undertaking major engineering projects in Australia, South-East Asia, the Middle East and Europe. The construction of the Narrows Bridge (1957-59) by Clough Engineering was the first major engineering project in Western Australia undertaken by a Western Australian company. This was to be followed by many other major projects including the Mount Henry Bridge; Stirling Bridge in Fremantle; the Harold Holt Communication Base on the North-West Cape; Woodside Offshore Petroleum's North Rankin 'A' submarine natural gas trunkline; Cape Lambert shipping channel for Robe River Mining and the Woodside LNG & Condensate Loadout Jetty. Harold Clough retired as Managing Director in 1988, after 34 years, continuing on as Chairman of the company.

1983



1984

DR KEVIN A.M. & DI CULLEN A.M.

Medicine & Viticulture

Kevin John Cullen was born in Bunbury in 1922 and devoted a lifetime to caring for the health of an entire town. He graduated from medicine in Melbourne in 1946, continued postgraduate study in the United Kingdom and then in Perth, where he received the first doctorate in medicine ever to be awarded by the University of Western Australia's Faculty of Medicine. He returned to Busselton to work as a general practitioner, where he was to make a unique and outstanding contribution to the health of Australians and to world health studies through the world-renowned Busselton Population Study which he instituted in 1966. The study screened almost the entire population of the town for cancer, diabetes, arthritis, immunological disorders, blood pressure, respiratory problems and many other conditions. With his wife he was a pioneer viticulturist in the Margaret River district. Producing their first vintage in 1974, Cullen Wines, Willyabrup, became a premium wine-producing venture that helped to establish the Margaret River wine industry.

Diane Madeleine Cullen was born in Tasmania in 1923. She graduated as a physiotherapist from The University of Melbourne in 1945. Di Cullen took over from her husband as chief winemaker at Cullen Wines, Willyabrup, in 1981. Creating wine styles that would become characteristic of the Margaret River region, she was the first to plant merlot and cabernet franc grapes in the district and introduced the cabernet merlot blend.

1985

JACK DAVIS A.M. B.E.M.

Literature

Jack Davis was born in 1917 in Perth and grew up in Yarloop. He was one of eleven children and spoke English as his first language. At the age of fourteen, as part of governmental policy to take part-Aboriginal children away from their indigenous families, he was sent to Moore River Native Settlement. He later worked as a stockman near Carnarvon. He worked for a time as an Aboriginal welfare worker and became involved in the struggle for Aboriginal land rights and equality, becoming the first chairman of the Aboriginal Lands Trust in Western Australia. His first book of poetry *The First Born*, was published in 1968. He became increasingly involved in writing and between 1972 and 1977 was managing editor of the Aboriginal Publications Foundation. He established a course for Aboriginal writers at Murdoch University and was a member of the Aboriginal Arts Board of Australia. Between 1980 and 1984 he was president of the Aboriginal Writers and Dramatists Association. His first full-length play *Kullark*, was presented in 1979. In 1977 he was awarded the British Empire Medal for his contribution to Australian literature and in 1985 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia. He was elected Citizen of the Year in Western Australia in 1988. A decade later he was recognised as a Western Australian Living Treasure for his outstanding contribution to literature, his achievements as a writer, playwright and poet and for his life's work that has brought a greater understanding of Aboriginal culture to the wider community.

is
1985



1986

***HON. SIR RONALD WILSON A.C.
K.B.E. C.M.G. Q.C.***

Law

Sir Ronald Darling Wilson has made a significant contribution to the development of the law, justice and religion in Australia at the highest levels, while demonstrating exceptional personal levels of humility, fairness and courtesy. He was born in 1922 in Geraldton where, at the age of 14, he worked as a messenger in the Geraldton Court House. He was admitted to the Bar in 1951, becoming Crown Counsel (1961-69), a Queen's Counsel (1963), Western Australia's Solicitor-General (1969) and then a Justice of the High Court of Australia (1979-89). Throughout that period he continued a close involvement with the Presbyterian and then Uniting Church. He was the inaugural moderator of the Uniting Church Synod of WA (1977), later holding a senior religious post as President of the Uniting Church in Australia (1988-90). He also pursued a lifelong involvement in education, holding the position of Chancellor of Murdoch University between 1980 and 1995. His position on the High Court, which he occupied for 10 years, was hailed as the first appointment since Federation to come from a State other than NSW, Victoria or Queensland. As a judge he was renowned for his capacity never to lose sight of the human involvement in litigation before him. Throughout his career Sir Ronald spoke eloquently on the role of the law and the Church as guardians of traditional values within the community. After he retired from law in 1989, he became more involved in human rights, subsequently holding the positions of president of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) (1990-97) and deputy chairperson of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation (1991-93).

1987

MS ELIZABETH JOLLEY A.O.

Literature

Elizabeth Jolley was not accepted for publication until late in life. Although she was born in Birmingham in 1923, she was brought up in a German-speaking household. Her English father had met her mother, the daughter of an Austrian General, when engaged in famine relief in Vienna in 1919. Elizabeth was educated at home and later at a Quaker boarding school. During World War II she was a nurse in Birmingham and London.

In 1959 she emigrated to Australia with her husband and three children. While her children were growing up, she worked in a variety of jobs: as a nurse; a door-to-door sales person; a real estate agent and as a domestic. During this period she had stories, plays and poems published in Australian literary journals and anthologies.

Drawing on her experience as a tutor of creative writing at Curtin University of Technology (then the Western Australian Institute of Technology) and painstakingly handwriting her work before it was typed and sent to a publisher, Elizabeth Jolley's early short stories and books were acclaimed for their maturity and fine literary qualities. She has won a number of prestigious literary awards, including The Age Book of the Year Award in 1982 for *Mr Scobie's Riddle*, the NSW Premier's Award for Fiction in 1985 for *Milk and Honey* and the Miles Franklin Award in 1987 for *The Well*. Her enormous contribution to Australian literature has been acknowledged by Curtin University, who awarded her an honorary doctorate in 1986 and made her Professor of Creative Writing in 1998.

1987



1988

MR JON SANDERS A.O. O.B.E.

Yachting

Jon Sanders became a household name in Western Australia and amongst yachting enthusiasts the world over. He achieved the longest non-stop, single-handed voyage in history with his triple circumnavigation of the globe, sailing for 658 days and 75,000 nautical miles and finally arriving in Fremantle in March 1988. For his incredible journey, he was awarded the James Cook Award for Rare and Exceptional Feats in Seamanship in 1988. This voyage overtook his previous achievement of circumnavigating the globe twice in 1982, for which he had been awarded the Chichester Award: the world's most prestigious personal yachting trophy. His message through his achievements is that the seemingly insurmountable is possible. Jonathan William Sanders was born in Perth in 1939, the son of Colsell Sanders, Professor of Education at UWA, and author Dorothy Sanders (Lucy Walker). As a child he spent many hours on the Swan River in both canoes and sailing dinghies. He later became a shearing contractor, working with his team on isolated, pastoral properties in Western Australia's North-West for many years. Due to the seasonal nature of this work, he was able to leave the summers free to sail in Perth. Jon Sanders' achievements include more than magnificent navigation and engineering feats. He has also made a substantial contribution to science. His log of sea surface temperature measurements was welcomed by the Bureau of Meteorology in the area of long-term weather prediction and climate studies.

1989

MR JOHN ROBERTS A.O.

Construction

John Charles Roberts was born in Perth in 1933 and attended Guildford Grammar School. He is a sixth generation Australian, tracing his ancestry back to the First Fleet. In 1962 he formed the building company Multiplex Constructions Pty Ltd. From his first project, the Laporte Titanium Effluent Pipe Line across the Australind Estuary, he has built the company up to become the largest privately owned company in Australia. During the 1980s, Multiplex constructed over \$1.5 billion worth of buildings in Western Australia including: the Metropolitan Water Centre, Alexander Library Building, Burswood Casino, the 50 level BankWest Tower, Forrest Chase, Westralia Square, the 51 level Central Park Plaza and numerous Perth shopping centres, office blocks and hotels. Many of these buildings won engineering, construction and design awards. Recently Multiplex has also undertaken significant environmental projects including the remediation of the old East Perth Gasworks site and the creation of Claisebrook Cove in East Perth. Multiplex has also constructed major buildings in other Australian cities. In 1996 Multiplex became the successful bidder for the Stadium Australia contract for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. John Roberts has also made a contribution to the conservation of Australia's heritage through the restoration of a number of historic buildings. John Roberts also has rural interests. He owns an extensive horse stud and was made a life member of the Western Australian Turf Club in 1988.

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1989

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